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-- IGN

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

FLYNN • YARDLEY • AUSTIN

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!

WELCOME TO SONIC'S COMIC BOOK ADVENTURES — A WORLD UNIQUE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE SEGA GAMES! WHERE SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS WORK TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
TYLER HAM & ANTHONY GACCIONE AT SEGA LICENSING

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, Book One: Countdown to Chaos. 2014. Printed in Canada. Published by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Originally published in single magazine form in Sonic the Hedgehog # 252-256. Sega is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2014. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 2001-2014. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island St., Ste. 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Nothing may be reprinted in whole or part without written permission from Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
ISBN: 978-1-62738-027-3

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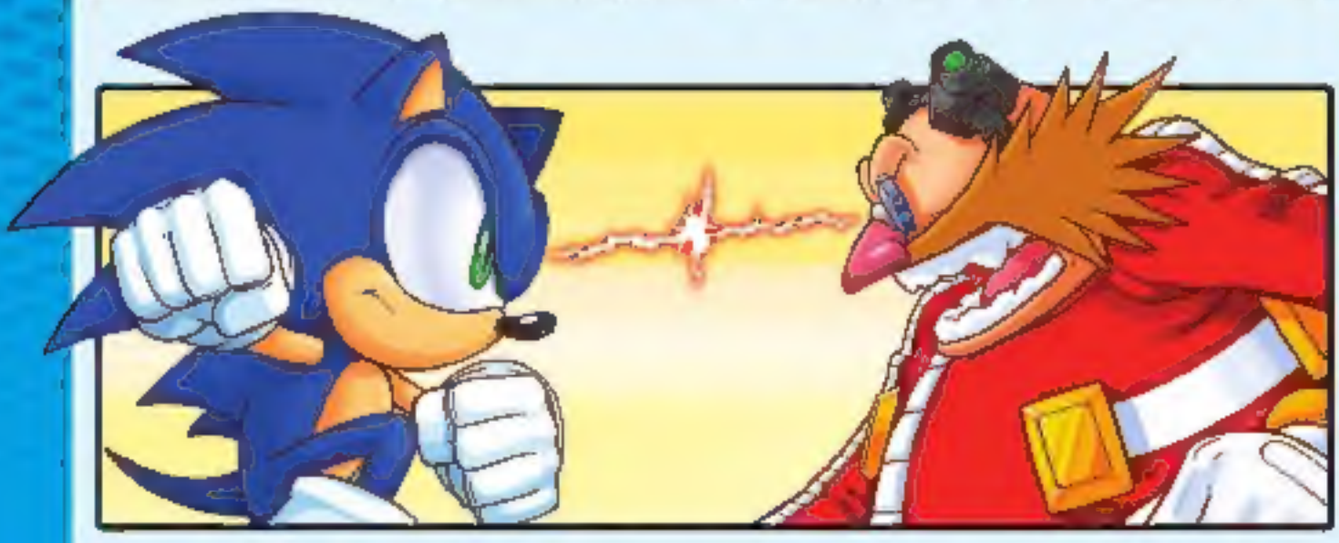
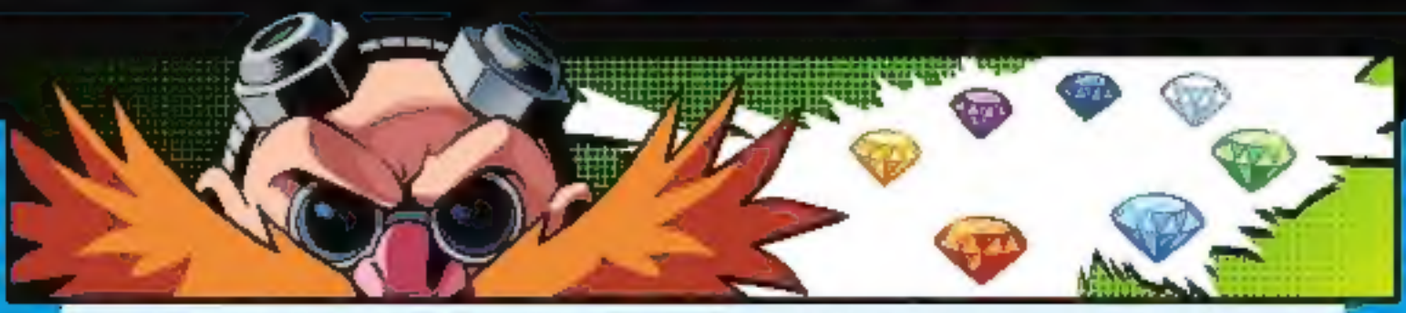
WELCOME TO THE NEW SONIC COMIC UNIVERSE!



In the beginning there was one super-fast hedgehog with a ton of attitude and the skills to back it up. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and his friends – the Freedom Fighters – battled Dr. Ivo "Eggman" Robotnik and the forces of evil. Their mission: to restore the Kingdom of Acorn and save the world!

Sonic and his friends had countless adventures. They traveled the world, tumbled through time and crossed dimensions! They fought mechanical maniacs, terrible tyrants and ancient evils. No matter what they faced, the Freedom Fighters knew that Sonic would make sure they pulled through.



But they weren't counting on how ruthless Dr. Eggman could be. The mad scientist created an alliance on another world, and with the power of the Chaos Emeralds, set out to reshape all of reality! He wouldn't simply control the world, he would rebuild the universe in his own image! He had perfected the SUPER GENESIS WAVE.

Sonic and his friends crossed time and space as worlds collided. In the last desperate seconds, Dr. Eggman set off the Super Genesis Wave. Super Sonic tried to use Chaos Control to undo the damage, but he was interrupted by an insanely enraged Dr. Eggman. The energies mixed, reality was shifted, and both hero and villain went tumbling into the unknown!

What happened to Sonic's world? What was restored, what was lost and what was forever changed? It's up to Sonic to find the answers and set things right. What he doesn't realize is that a new disaster is looming beneath his feet.

The Countdown to Chaos has begun...

CHAPTER I

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 252
COVER BY BEN BATES

AT ALL COSTS

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

MOBOTROPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND
Ugh... FEELS LIKE MY BRAIN'S DOING A SPIN DASH IN MY SKULL...
I HOPE THE KID GOT BACK TO HIS OWN WORLD OKAY,* 'CAUSE I'VE GOT TO GET BACK...
*WORLDS COLLIDE CROSSOVER! THE COMPLETE SAGA IS AVAILABLE NOW IN 3 GRAPHIC NOVEL VOLUMES!
...TO BUSINESS?
SONIC! YOU TOOK A NASTY HIT! ARE YOU OKAY?
MILES "TAILS" PROWER HIGH FLYING HERO
I'M BACK IN THE CITY. OUTSIDE. AND THERE'S A MONSTER-THING.
WHY?

YOU GOT HIT BAD. HOW MANY FINGERS AM I HOLDING UP? CAN YOU REMEMBER MY NAME?
THREE, TAILS, AND I'M FINE.
IT'S THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT STOPPED MAKING SENSE!
UH-HUH. IF YOU'RE UP TO IT, LET'S GET BACK TO SAVING THE CITY.
SURE, I MEAN-- HOLD ON A SECOND! WHERE'S AMY AND SILVER?
WE WERE JUST ON THE DEATH EGG ABOUT TO RESCUE SALLY!
RESCUE SALLY?
WE CAME HERE TO FOLLOW-UP ON NICOLE AND SAVE KING ACORN. THIS THING WAS ALREADY ATTACKING WHEN WE ARRIVED!*
* SEE STH#... WAIT A MINUTE...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE AMY WENT, BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN SILVER SINCE WE RESCUED THE WISPS.
I...BUH... WHAT?!
REWIND A SECOND!
IF WE'RE BACK IN THE CITY AND HERE TO SAVE THE KING...

...DOES THAT MEAN NAUGUS IS INVOLVED?
CURSE IT ALL! FIRST EGGMAN SENDS HIS CREATIONS AFTER ME, THEN THE QUICKSTER ARRIVES!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, WALLY. TERRORIZING THE CITIZENS, LYING AND MANIPULATING YOUR WAY TO THE CROWN!
DON'T LECTURE ME, AND NEVER CALL ME THAT!
THIS WOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE IF YOU MADE GOOD ON YOUR PROMISE!
NAUGUS USURPER & EX-WIZARD
NICOLE ADVANCED A.I., FREEDOM FIGHTER
HURRY UP AND FINISH MAKING THAT SUPER RING SO I CAN RESTORE MY MAGIC!
I TOLD YOU— I'M NOT SURE I CAN MAKE ONE.
THEN I WILL FIND SOME OTHER WAY!
IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES?
GRRRRRR!!
YOU'LL FINISH THAT RING OR I'LL MAKE YOU—!

NYAAAGH!!
KSH!
WH-WHAT SORCERY IS THIS? TH-THESE VISIONS OF... ANOTHER LIFE...?
NO! I MUST DRIVE THE VISIONS OUT! MUST ESCAPE!
MUST ESCAPE!!
KRASH

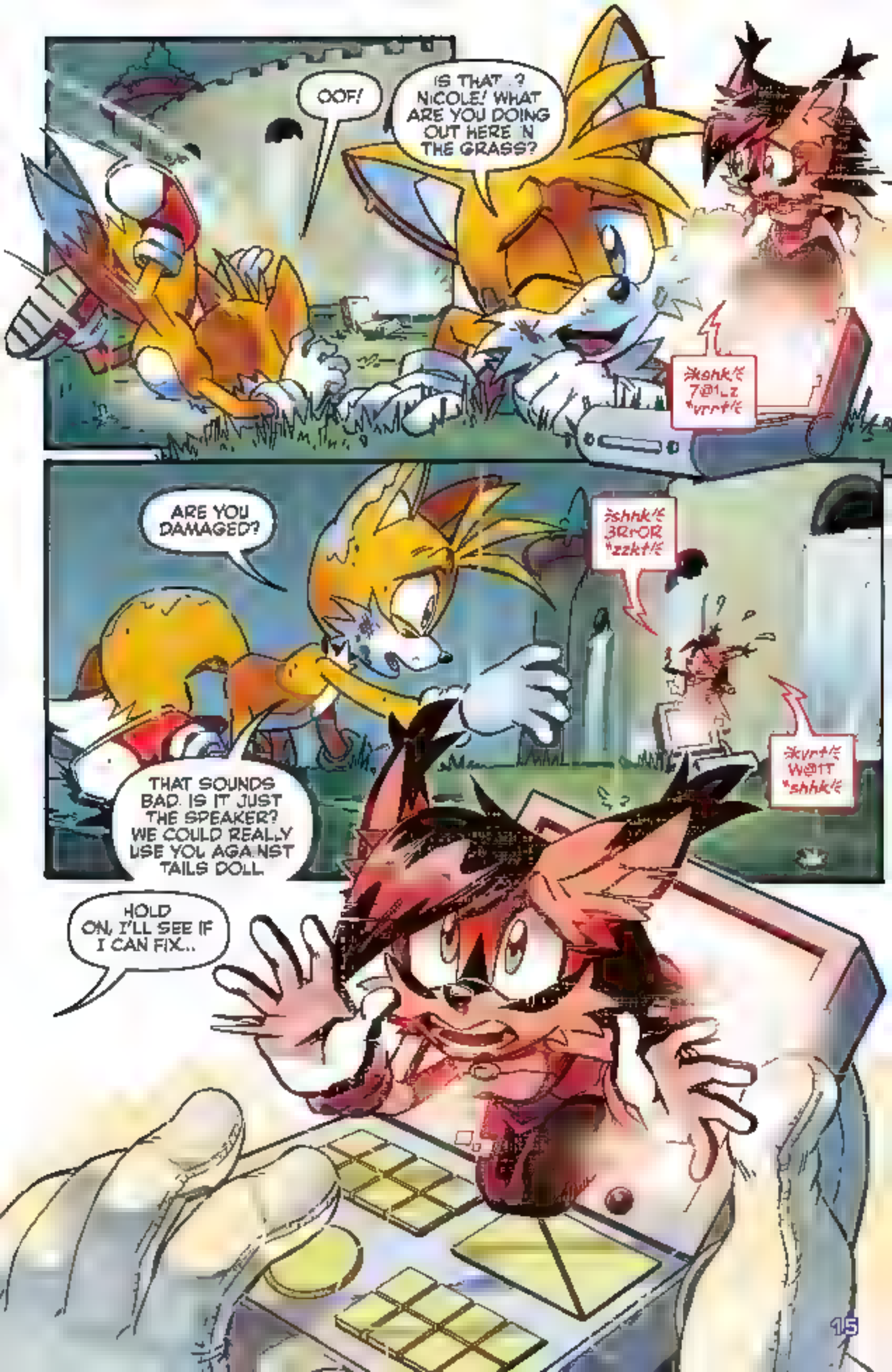
LET THE QUICKSTER HAVE THIS PLACE! AHHH!

WELL...THAT GETS NAUGUS OUT OF THE CASTLE. OR SHOULD WE...
ONE THING AT A TIME! MONSTER--NOW. CRAZY FLEEING WIZARD--LATER.

THE ARMOR IS TOO TOUGH FOR ME!
REGULAR SPIN DASHING ISN'T GONNA CUT IT! TIME TO COMBO IT UP!
RIGHT!

KRASH
WHAT THE...?
IT'S ABSORB NG AL. THE...STUFF? WHERE ARE ALL THE NANITES THAT MAKE UP THE CITY?
WHAT NANITES?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. MY POINT BE NG, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MJCH DAMAGE WE DO, BECAJSE TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME CAN REBUILD HIMSELF OUT OF ANYTH.NG.
RIGHT! WE NEED TO FIND THE CONTROL GEM!

THE WHAT?
CONTROL GEM! IT LETS TAILS DOLL CONTROL MACHINERY AND BUILD UP ITS OUTER SHELL --JUST LIKE LAST TIME!
THANKS FOR THE LESSON, PROFESSOR. NOW HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE?!?
IT'S A SHINY RED GEM! THE SAME AS ALWAYS!
OH! I THINK I SAW IT IN ITS MAYBE-ITS-HEAD-PART.
GREAT! I'LL GET US UP THERE AS QUICK AS I CAN--
VWOOSH
YOW!
AAHHH!


OOF!
IS THAT...? NICOLE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE GRASS?
*shhk/t 7@1_z *vrrt/t
ARE YOU DAMAGED?
*shhk/t 3RrOR *zzkt/t
*kvrt/t W@1T *shhk/t
THAT SOUNDS BAD. IS IT JUST THE SPEAKER? WE COULD REALLY USE YOU AGAINST TAILS DOLL.
HOLD ON, I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIX...

...ALL THAT.. ALL THAT ...HAPPENED ..BUT...
I.. REMEMBER ...EVERYTHING.. DIFFERENTLY?

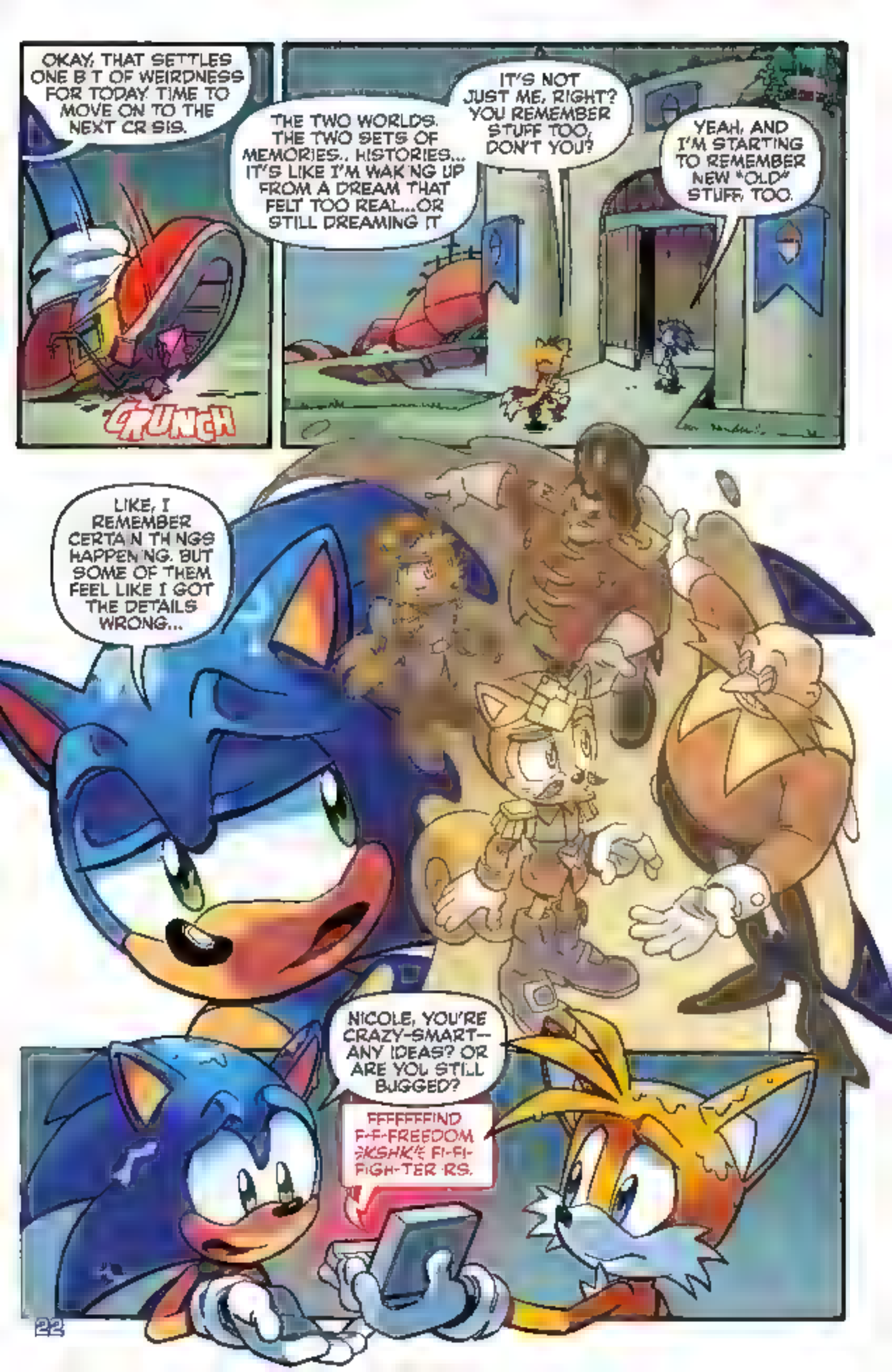
WHAM
YO, TAILS? YOU STILL WITH ME?
Y-YEAH... YEAH, I...
SONIC. THERE WAS ANOTHER WORLD!
WE WERE RESCUING SALLY, AND THEN WE MET THOSE ROBOTS FROM THAT OTHER UNIVERSE, AND THEN...
SEE? I'M NOT CRAZY, AND NEITHER ARE YOU. BUT LIKE I SAID, ONE THING AT A TIME. LET'S FINISH TAKING CARE OF UGLY, HERE, 'CAUSE I'M SICK OF RUNNING IN THE RAIN.
THEN WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THE MESSED UP REALITY.
R-RIGHT. I'M WITH YOU.
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YA. REMIND ME TO SEND A MEMO TO EGGY...

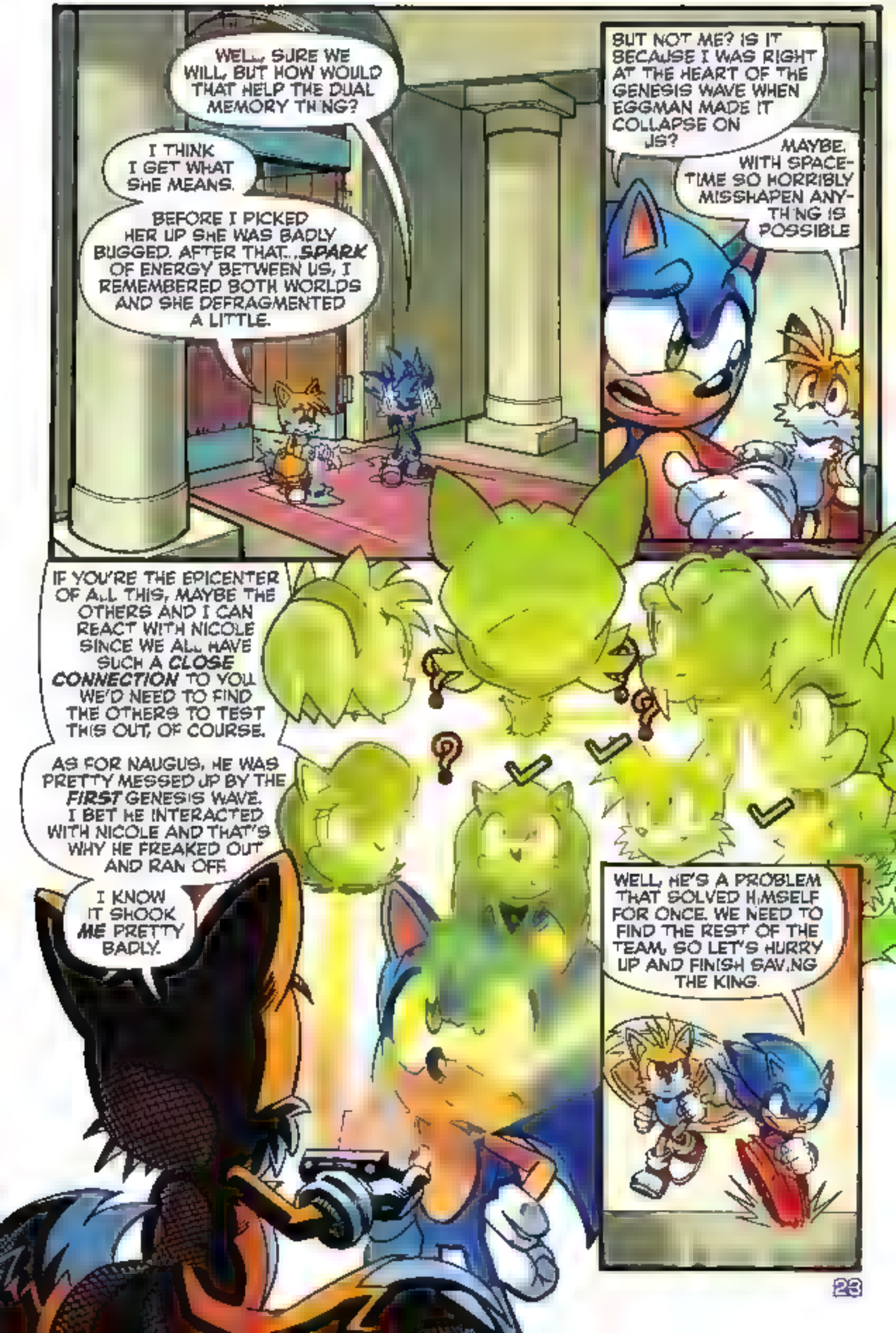
"...TELLING HIM NOT TO MAKE ANYTHING SO CREEPY AGAIN!"
EFRIKA PLAINS
KOFF! KOFF!
DR. EGGMAN EVIL GENIUS
I HATE THAT HEDGE-HOG...
OOF!
RRGGH— ORBOT! CUBOT! YOU BETTER HAVE MADE IT BACK TOO!
OH, YES, BOSS. SURPRISINGLY IN ONE PIECE.
SPEAK FER YERSELF. I THINK I GOT A FEW SCREWS LOOSE.
I'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR A WHILE.
ORBOT & CUBOT ROBOT LACKEYS

CAN IT, YOU TWO! I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE. ONCE WE GET BACK TO THE DEATH EGG, I CAN--
KANG
BLAST IT, AL... I BLAME YOU FOR ALL THIS...
EXCEPT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO FLEW INTO THE COLLAPSING SPACE-TIME VORTEX OF CERTAIN DOOM, BOSS.
SIGH!
COME ON. WE NEED TO FIND SOME KIND OF SUPPORT OUT HERE. I CAN ONLY HOPE...

"... SONIC IS HAVING A WORSE TIME THAN ME."
YOU'D BE A LOT MORE TERRIFYING IF YOU COULD ACTUALLY HIT ME!
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THIS, NICOLE? WHAT IF THIS THING MANAGES TO ABSORB YOU?
KSSH!
I-I-I-I
B-B-B-BE
D-D-DO
IT!
SHRK!
ALRIGHT. HERE WE GO...
INTRUDER IN THE SYSTEM!
PURGE! PURGE!

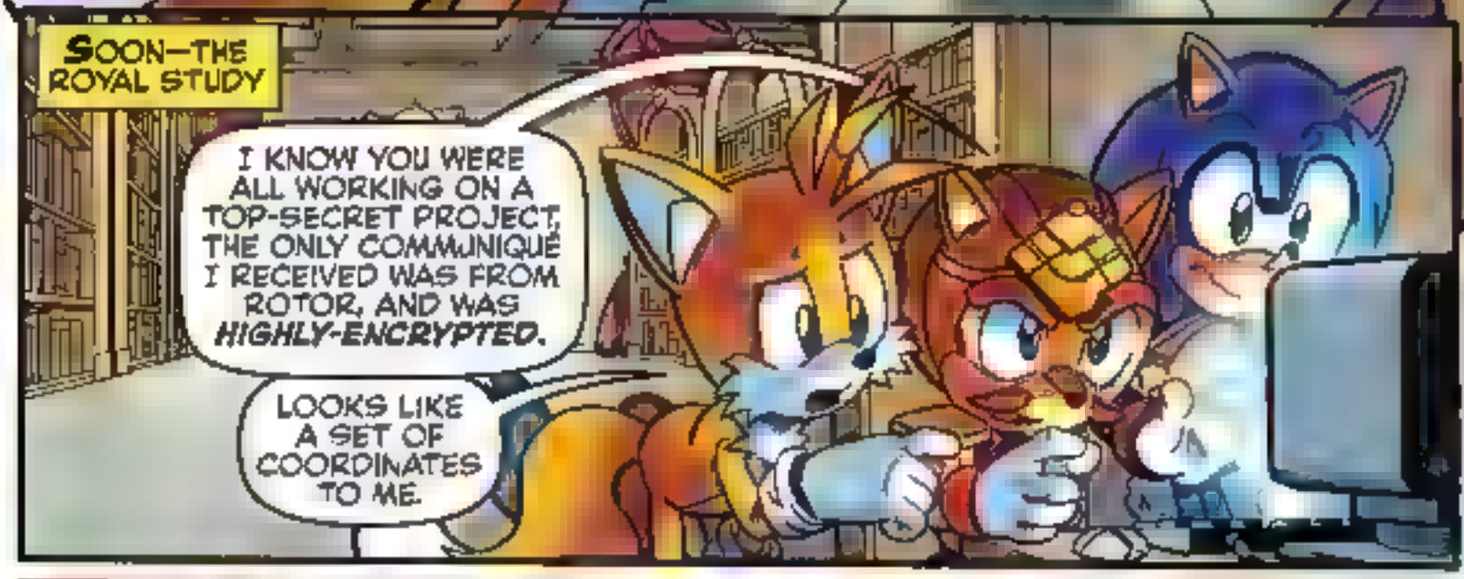
KRASH
GOTCHA!
THIS IS WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT?
HOW ARE YOUR SYSTEMS, NICOLE?
DID ANY OF TAILS DOLL'S CODING GET BACK INTO YOU?
N-N-NO ERROR. FFFFINE
OKAY, SO WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO KEEP THIS GUY FROM GETTING BIG AND UGLY AGAIN?
JUST DISABLE HIS CONTROL GEM.
COOL CAN-DO.
SNAP
THUNK

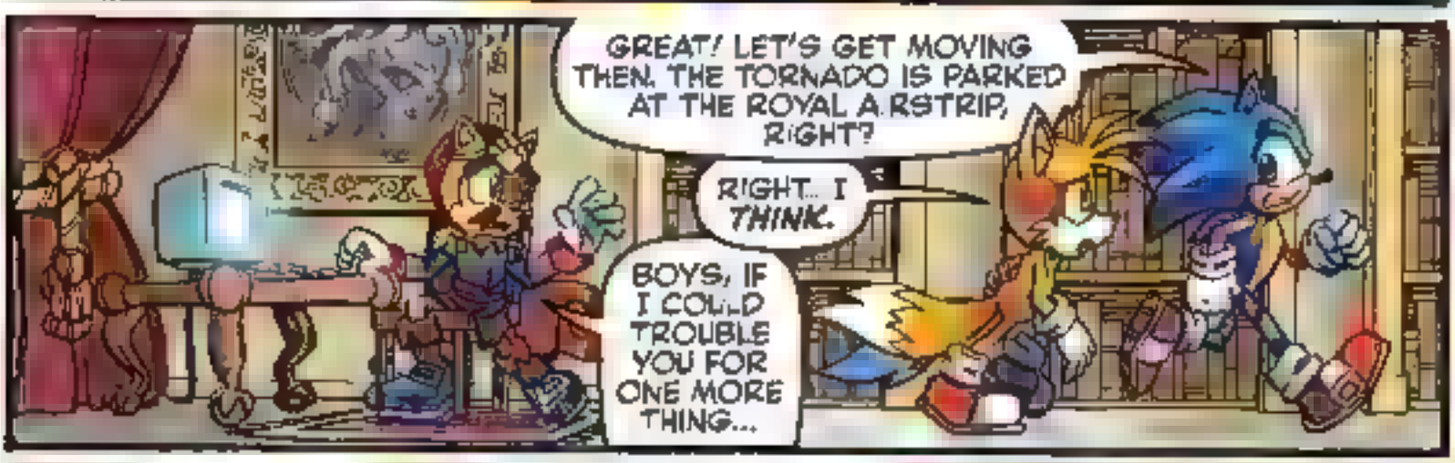

OKAY, THAT SETTLES ONE B T OF WEIRDNESS FOR TODAY. TIME TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT CR SIS.
CRUNCH
THE TWO WORLDS. THE TWO SETS OF MEMORIES.. HISTORIES... IT'S LIKE I'M WAK NG UP FROM A DREAM THAT FELT TOO REAL...OR STILL DREAMING IT
IT'S NOT JUST ME, RIGHT? YOU REMEMBER STUFF TOO, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, AND I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER NEW "OLD" STUFF, TOO.
LIKE, I REMEMBER CERTA N TH NGS HAPPEN NG. BUT SOME OF THEM FEEL LIKE I GOT THE DETAILS WRONG...
NICOLE, YOU'RE CRAZY-SMART-- ANY IDEAS? OR ARE YOU STILL BUGGED?
FFFFFFFIND F-F-FREEDOM ≥KSHK≤ FI-FI-FIGH-TER RS.

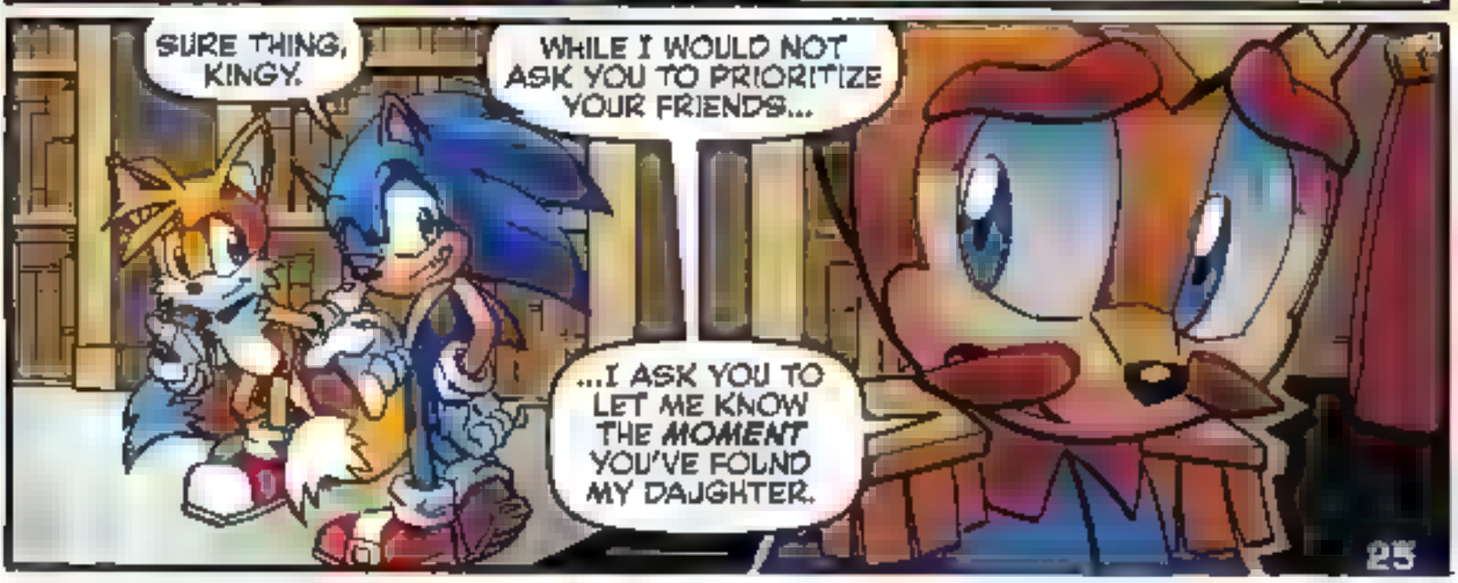

WELL, SURE WE WILL, BUT HOW WOULD THAT HELP THE DUAL MEMORY THING?
I THINK I GET WHAT SHE MEANS.
BEFORE I PICKED HER UP SHE WAS BADLY BUGGED. AFTER THAT...SPARK OF ENERGY BETWEEN US, I REMEMBERED BOTH WORLDS AND SHE DEFRAGMENTED A LITTLE.
BUT NOT ME? IS IT BECAUSE I WAS RIGHT AT THE HEART OF THE GENESIS WAVE WHEN EGGMAN MADE IT COLLAPSE ON US?
MAYBE. WITH SPACE-TIME SO HORRIBLY MISSHAPEN ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
IF YOU'RE THE EPICENTER OF ALL THIS, MAYBE THE OTHERS AND I CAN REACT WITH NICOLE SINCE WE ALL HAVE SUCH A CLOSE CONNECTION TO YOU. WE'D NEED TO FIND THE OTHERS TO TEST THIS OUT, OF COURSE.
AS FOR NAUGUS, HE WAS PRETTY MESSED UP BY THE FIRST GENESIS WAVE. I BET HE INTERACTED WITH NICOLE AND THAT'S WHY HE FREAKED OUT AND RAN OFF.
I KNOW IT SHOOK ME PRETTY BADLY.
WELL, HE'S A PROBLEM THAT SOLVED HIMSELF FOR ONCE. WE NEED TO FIND THE REST OF THE TEAM, SO LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH SAVING THE KING.

SOON—UNDER CASTLE ACORN
THIS IS SOME SERIOUS HARDWARE. NAUGUS PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS MAGIC. WHERE DID HE GET THIS?
NICOLE!
BOYS!
THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE SAFE! DID NAUGUS GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE?
KER-KLAKK
F-F-FIRST W-WAVE ZZZT! POWERLESS-LESS-LESS. ST-ST-STOLE FROM EGG-G-G-G-MAN, WHO KZZT! T-T-T-TAILS D-D-D-DOLL.
NOPE, JUST A LAUGH. HE BAILED BEFORE WE COULD KICK HIM OUT.
THE COWARD. NO WORRIES, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND HIM IN TIME.
I'M JUST THANKFUL TO BE OUT OF THAT OTHER DREADFUL CELL. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE HAVE THIS OLD DUNGEON STILL!
I APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING YOU CAPTURED, NICOLE. HAD I NOT DELAYED YOU, YOUR PHYSICAL FORM WOULDN'T HAVE RUN OUT AND...HELLO?
SHE'S DEALING WITH A... SYSTEM ERROR, SIRE. NAUGUS MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING TO HER.
THEN I'M DOUBLY SORRY, DEAR GIRL!
IT'S WEIRD SEEING KING ACORN SO HEALTHY, LIVELY...AND NOT A TOTAL JERK. MAYBE SOME GOOD WILL COME FROM THIS WORLD-CHANGE AFTER ALL!

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO ASS'ST YOU IN REPAIR'NG THE DAMAGE?
CAN YOU PUT US IN CONTACT WITH ROTOR AND THE OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS? WE.. *uh* ...KINDA LOST CONTACT WITH EVERYBODY.
NOT DIRECTLY, BUT I CAN POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

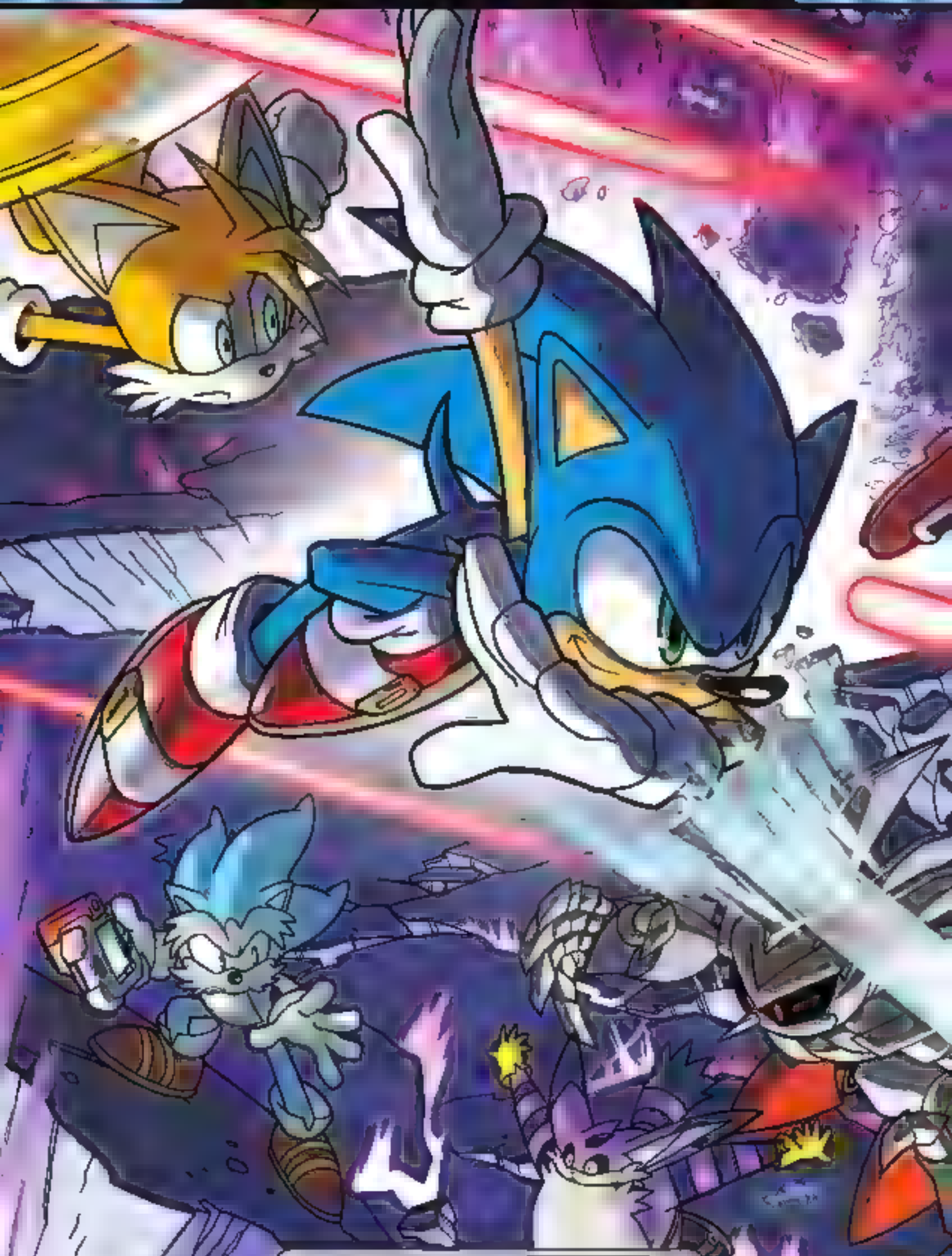

SOON—THE ROYAL STUDY
I KNOW YOU WERE ALL WORKING ON A TOP-SECRET PROJECT, THE ONLY COMMUNIQUÉ I RECEIVED WAS FROM ROTOR, AND WAS *HIGHLY-ENCRYPTED.*
LOOKS LIKE A SET OF COORDINATES TO ME.


GREAT! LET'S GET MOVING THEN. THE TORNADO IS PARKED AT THE ROYAL A RSTRIP, RIGHT?
RIGHT... I *THINK.*
BOYS, IF I COULD TROUBLE YOU FOR ONE MORE THING...


SURE THING, KINGY.
WHILE I WOULD NOT ASK YOU TO PRIORITIZE YOUR FRIENDS...
...I ASK YOU TO LET ME KNOW THE *MOMENT* YOU'VE FOUND MY DAUGHTER.

THE ARCTIC
"I KNOW SHE'S CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HERSELF..."
"...BUT STILL, IN THESE DANGEROUS TIMES, IT WOULD EASE MY MIND..."
"...TO KNOW MY SALLY'S SAFE."

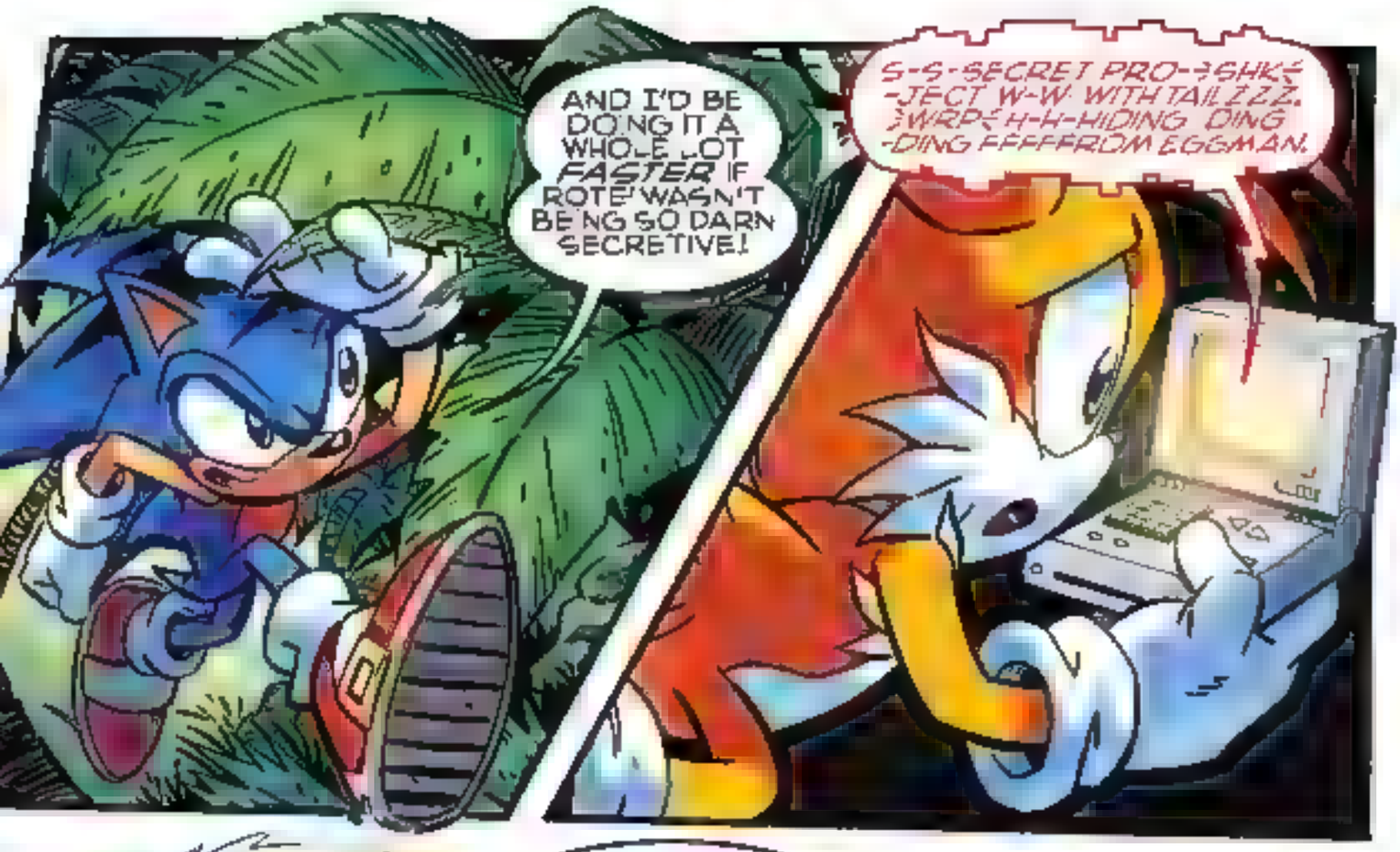
CHAPTER 2

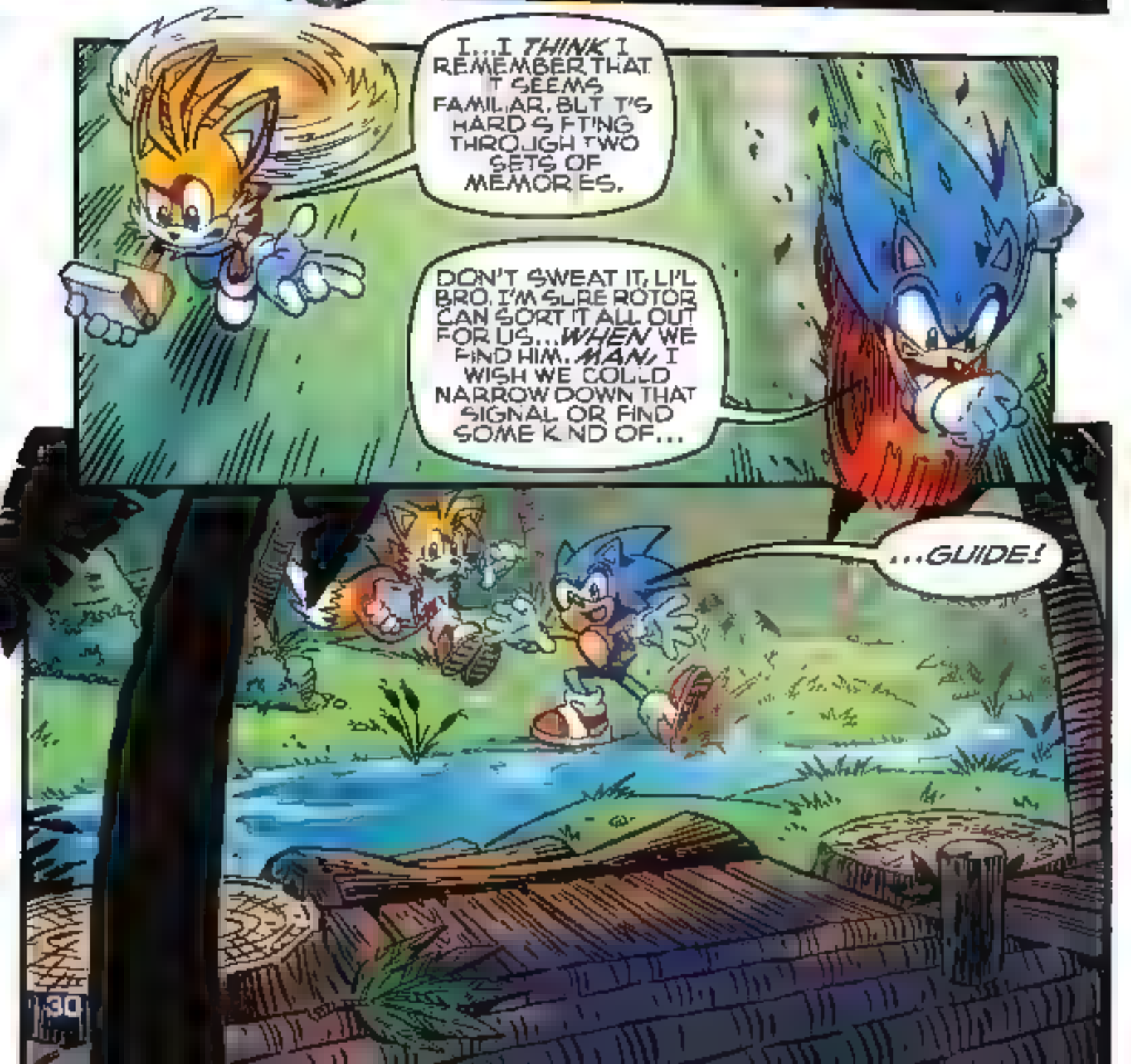


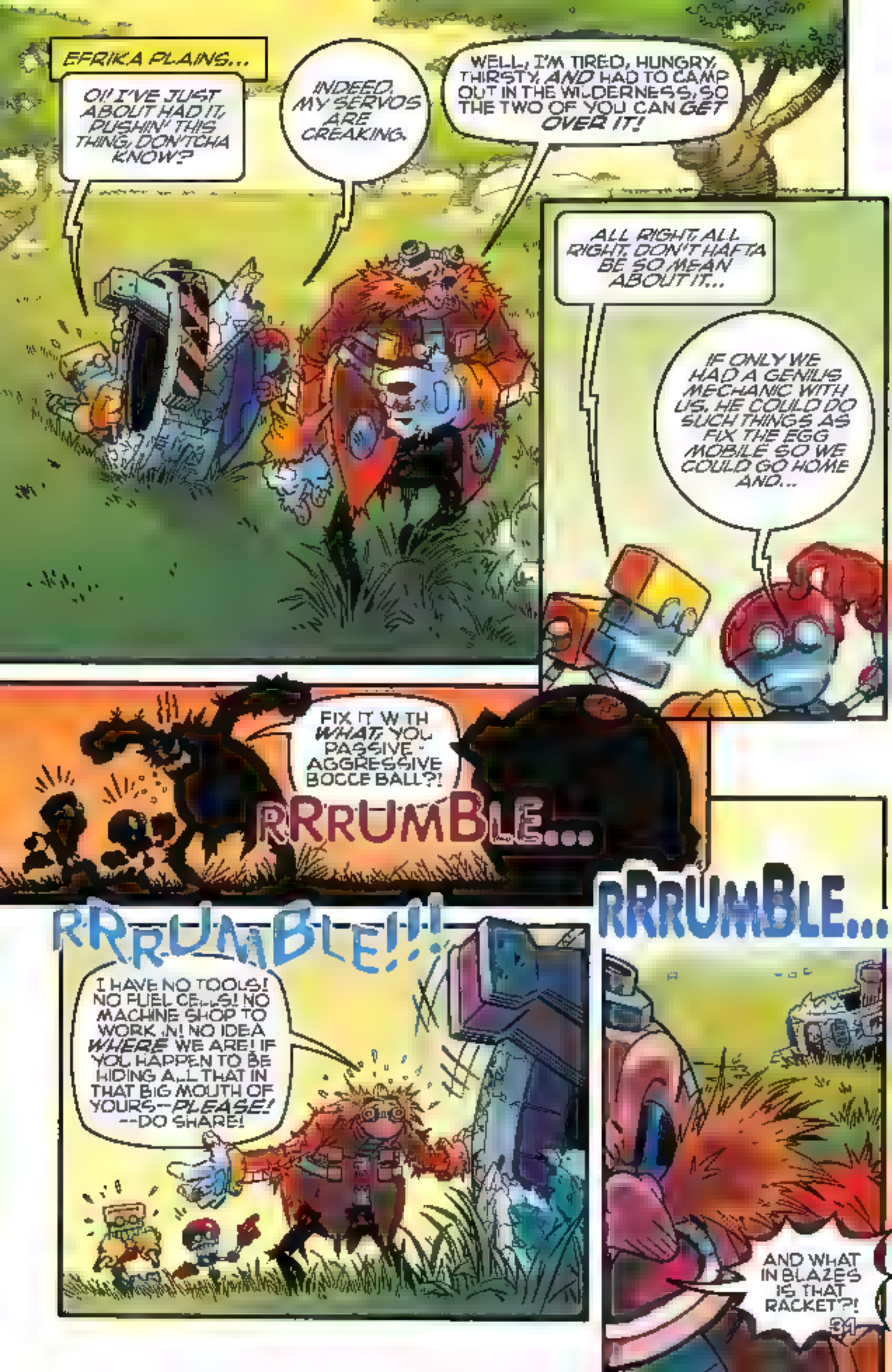
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 253
COVER BY BEN BATES

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS
PART ONE: THE BUILDER
MYSTIC RUINS JUNGLE..
OUTTA THE WAY, JUNGLE! HEDGEHOG COMIN' THROUGH!
YEAH! YOU SHOW THOSE LEAVES WHO'S BOSS!

SAYS THE FOX WITH THE WEED-WHACKER TAILS...
...ANY LUCK FINDING ROTOR?
VREEE! VREEE!
I'VE GOT A REALLY WEAK SIGNAL NARROWED DOWN TO A FEW HUNDRED METERS, BUT THAT'S IT. IF THE KING HADN'T GIVEN US THOSE COORDINATES, THERE'D HAVE BEEN NO WAY TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.*
*SEE LAST CHAPTER!
AND ROTOR'S THE ONE FREEDOM FIGHTER WE'VE GOT ANY LEAD ON. HOPEFULLY, HE'S GOT A CLUE WHERE EVERYONE ELSE IS.
AND ONCE WE FIND THEM, THEY'LL PROVE OR DISPROVE MY THEORY ABOUT THEM BEING KEY TO RESTORING NICOLE.
SPEAKIN' OF--HOW YOU DOIN', GIRL?
S-S-STILL ROCKIN' BUG-G-G-GY.
HANG IN THERE. WE'LL MAKE THIS RIGHT.

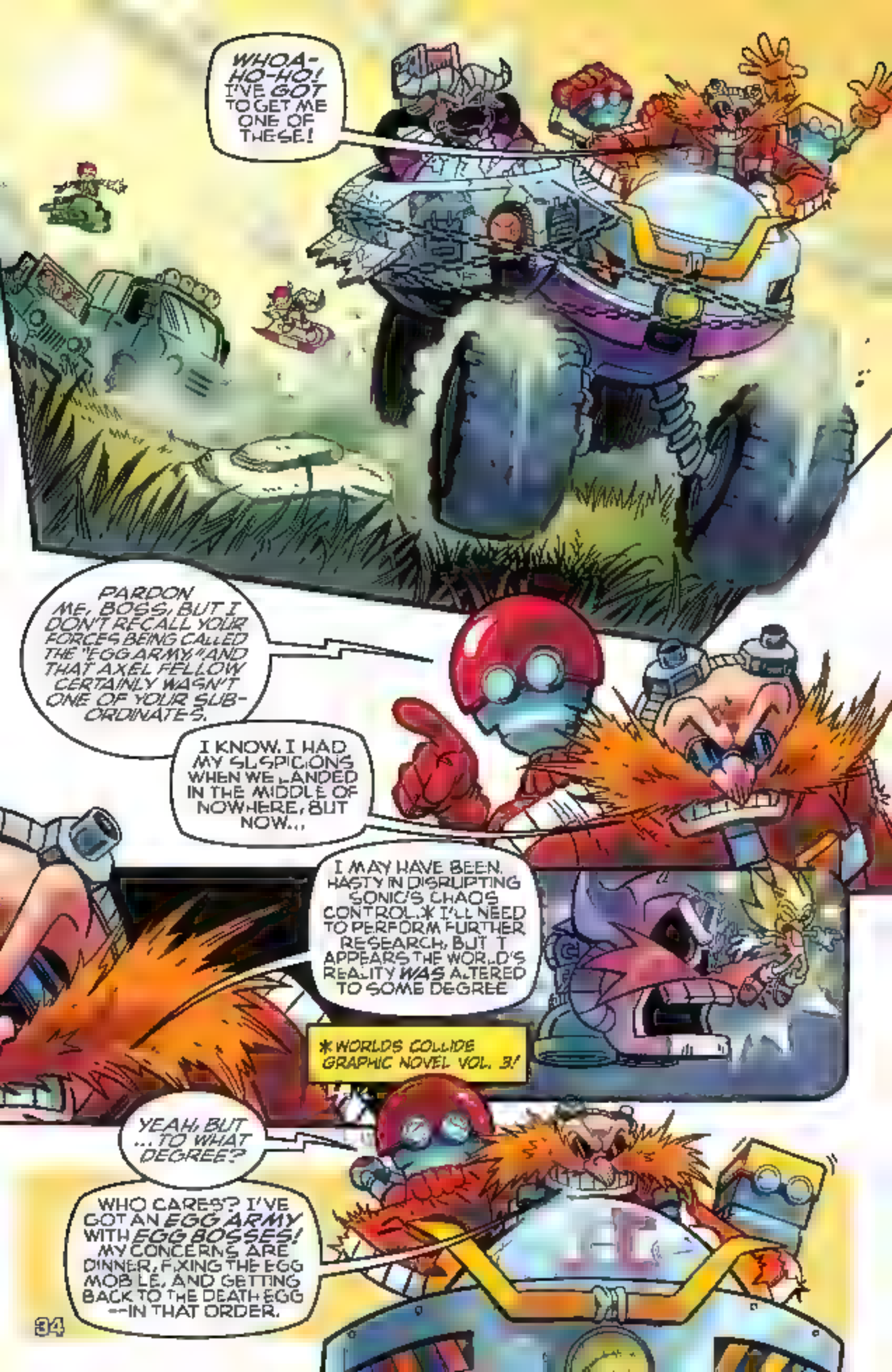

AND I'D BE DOING IT A WHOLE LOT *FASTER* IF ROTOR WASN'T BEING SO DARN SECRETIVE!
S-S-SECRET PRO-JECT W-W-WITH TAILZZZ. WRP-H-H-HIDING DING-DING FFFFFROM EGGMAN.


I...I *THINK* I REMEMBER THAT. IT SEEMS FAMILIAR, BUT IT'S HARD SIFTING THROUGH TWO SETS OF MEMORIES.
DON'T SWEAT IT, LI'L BRO. I'M SURE ROTOR CAN SORT IT ALL OUT FOR US...*WHEN* WE FIND HIM. *MAN,* I WISH WE COULD NARROW DOWN THAT SIGNAL OR FIND SOME KIND OF...
...GUIDE!


EFRIKA PLAINS...
OI! I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT, PUSHIN' THIS THING, DON'TCHA KNOW?
INDEED. MY SERVOS ARE CREAKING.
WELL, I'M TIRED, HUNGRY, THIRSTY, AND HAD TO CAMP OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, SO THE TWO OF YOU CAN GET OVER IT!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, DON'T HAFTA BE SO MEAN ABOUT IT...
IF ONLY WE HAD A GENIUS MECHANIC WITH US. HE COULD DO SUCH THINGS AS FIX THE EGG MOBILE SO WE COULD GO HOME AND...
FIX IT W TH WHAT, YOU PASSIVE - AGGRESSIVE BOCCE BALL?!
RRRUMBLE...
RRRUMBLE!!!
I HAVE NO TOOLS! NO FUEL CELLS! NO MACHINE SHOP TO WORK IN! NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE! IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE HIDING ALL THAT IN THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS--PLEASE! --DO SHARE!
RRRUMBLE...
AND WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT RACKET?!

RRRUMBLE!!!
KOFF KOFF!
IS THIS ANOTHER "SURPRISE INSPECTION," SIR?

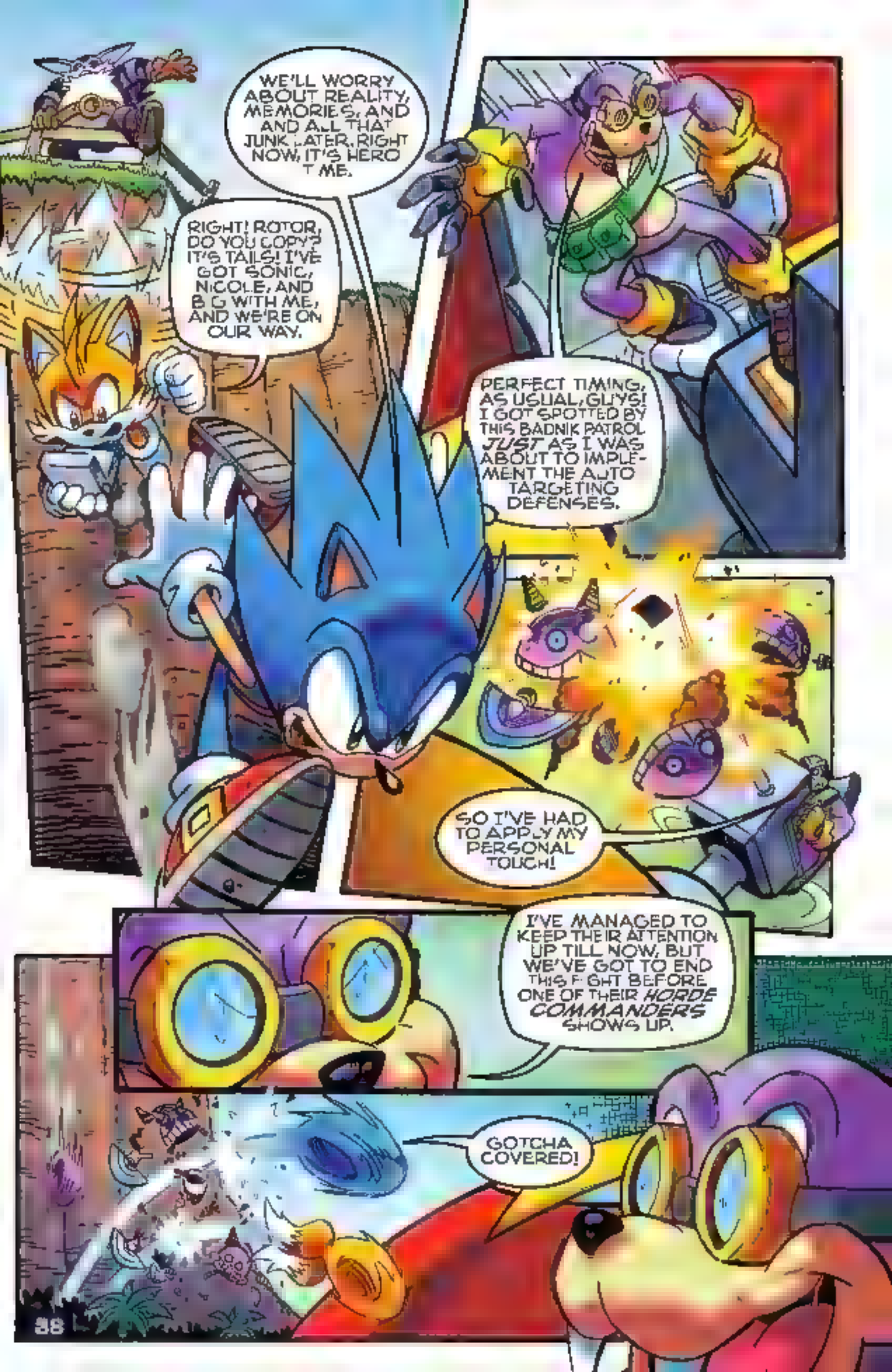
SURPRISE INSPECTION...?
OF COURSE THIS IS AN INSPECTION! YOU DIDN'T LET ME SNEAK UP ON YOU, WHICH IS GOOD, BUT YOUR RESPONSE TIME IS LACKING. NAME, RANK - YOU KNOW THE DRILL!
SNORT & AXEL THE WATER BUFFALO, EGG BOSS TO THE EFRIKA EGG ARMY UNIT, SIR.
"EGG ARMY!" OOH-HOO-HOO!
YOU ...UH... NEED ANY-THING ELSE?


WHOA-HO-HO! I'VE GOT TO GET ME ONE OF THESE!
PARDON ME, BOSS, BUT I DON'T RECALL YOUR FORCES BEING CALLED THE "EGG ARMY," AND THAT AXEL FELLOW CERTAINLY WASN'T ONE OF YOUR SUB-ORDINATES.
I KNOW. I HAD MY SUSPICIONS WHEN WE LANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, BUT NOW...
I MAY HAVE BEEN HASTY IN DISRUPTING SONIC'S CHAOS CONTROL.* I'LL NEED TO PERFORM FURTHER RESEARCH, BUT IT APPEARS THE WORLD'S REALITY WAS ALTERED TO SOME DEGREE
*WORLDS COLLIDE GRAPHIC NOVEL VOL. 3!
YEAH, BUT ...TO WHAT DEGREE?
WHO CARES? I'VE GOT AN EGG ARMY WITH EGG BOSSES! MY CONCERNS ARE DINNER, FIXING THE EGG MOBILE, AND GETTING BACK TO THE DEATH EGG --IN THAT ORDER.

"AND THEN IT'S RIGHT BACK TO MAKING SONIC MISERABLE!"
BIG! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE, BUDDY?
FISHIN'.
BIG THE CAT LAID-BACK TITAN
FROGGY BIG'S BEST BUDDY
I CAN SEE THAT BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO TEAM FREEDOM? WEREN'T YOU STILL IN THE CITY WHEN WE LEFT?
NOPE.
BUT, WELL, THEN, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?
FISHIN'.
LET ME TRY.
HEY, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT PROJECT ROTOR AND I WERE WORKING ON?
YEAH, IT'S BIG, LIKE ME!
HAHA-- I BET! WE GOT LOST CAN YOU SHOW US THE WAY?
SURE.
CLAP!
THIS WAY!

SOON...
DUDE, I NEVER GET TIRED OF THIS VIEW EVEN IF THE FINAL EGG'S TOWER IS STICKIN' OUT AND BEING AN EYE-SORE.
THE WHAT?
Y'KNOW. THE FINAL EGG? BASE FOR THE EGG CARRIER? WHEN THE DOC WAS USING CHAOS AND HE... AND HE...
HUH... I GUESS THAT HAPPENED ON THIS WORLD. MY MEMORIES ARE STARTING TO RUN TOGETHER.
WHAT IF... WHAT IF OUR NEW HISTORIES OVERTAKE THE OLD ONES?
SOMEBODY'S FIGHTING.

BOOM!
KZZT!
CRASH!
KLANG!
S THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!
ROTOR THE WALRUS
FREEDOM FIGHTER
BATTLE MECHANIC


WE'LL WORRY ABOUT REALITY, MEMORIES, AND AND ALL THAT JUNK LATER. RIGHT NOW, IT'S HERO T ME.
RIGHT! ROTOR, DO YOU COPY? IT'S TAILS! I'VE GOT SONIC, NICOLE, AND B G WITH ME, AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
PERFECT TIMING, AS USUAL, GUYS! I GOT SPOTTED BY THIS BADNIK PATROL *JUST* AS I WAS ABOUT TO IMPLEMENT THE AUTO TARGETING DEFENSES.
SO I'VE HAD TO APPLY MY PERSONAL TOUCH!
I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP THEIR ATTENTION UP TILL NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO END THIS F GHT BEFORE ONE OF THEIR *HORDE COMMANDERS* SHOWS UP.
GOTCHA COVERED!

HURRY! BEFORE THEY TRANS-MIT OUR LOCA-TION!
AW, SO I'VE GOTTA BE FAST? I DUNNO, GUYS...
WHOA
WHOA
WHOA
WHOA
WHOA
ALMOST DONE, BOYS! I THINK WE DID IT! THERE'S NO SIGN OF...
... OH, ME AND MY BIG MOUTH...
SILVER SONIC
EGGMAN'S BADNIK HORDE COMMANDER

VREE!
YEAH! THIRTY-SIX HOMING COMBO! DID YOU GUYS SEE--?
SLAM!
SLAM!
SLAM!
...WHOOPS.
BOOM!
I'VE GOT A SILVER SONIC INBOUND, AND THE BADNIKS ARE SWARMING ME!
CRASH!
ALMOST DONE WITH THIS BADNIK SWARM! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
RRRUMBLE!!!
VREE!

NO!
STOP!
IT'S NOT NICE TO ATTACK MY FRIENDS!
HUP!
BOOM!
SKA-DOOSH!

CRASH!
CRASH!
NO MORE BADNIKS, AND SILVER SONIC'S BEEN CRIPPLED!
YEAH ...UH... THANKS!
ROTOR? THAT'S YOU, RIGHT?
OH, C'MON. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AWAY THAT LONG!
NO, I MEAN...YOU LOOK GOOD, MAN!
HA, OKAY? YOU TOO.
SO... WHAT IS THIS THING?
TAILS DIDN'T TELL YOU? AW, MAN! I'LL GIVE YOU THE TOUR!
LET'S GET BIG IN HERE, TOO!

WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE OF THE SKY PATROL! I'M YOUR CAPTAIN, AND I'LL WELCOME YOU TO THE MAIDEN FLIGHT.. ONCE BUNNIE'S AND SALLY'S MISSIONS ARE DONE.
T-PUP! YOU'RE HERE, TOO!
SO--WOW! "SKY PATROL"?
WHAT? YOU DON'T LIKE THE NAME NOW? MAN, YOU INSISTED ON IT. ANYWAY, GUYS, TAILS AND I DESIGNED THIS BEAUTY TO FINALLY HAVE AN ANSWER TO THE DEATH EGG AND FLYING FLEETS THE DOCTOR KEEPS THROWING AT US.
LOOK, ROTOR, IT'S... IT'LL BE EASIER IF YOU TAKE NICOLE. MORE DIRECT, AT LEAST.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU GUYS? I MEAN, SURE, I'D LOVE TO HAVE NICOLE'S HELP IN DEBUGGING THE SYSTEMS AND...

EASY THERE, BIG MAN! HOW YOU TAKIN' IT?
THERE. WAS A WHOLE OTHER WORLD...
I...HOW CAN YOU TAKE IT?
ROTOR?
I . I CAN'T! OKAY? I CAN'T PROCESS THIS RIGHT NOW! WORK! LET'S FOCUS ON WORK, AND..
HOW'S NICOLE?

MUCH BETTER, THANKS! VVT? HMM... NOT PERFECT .?VVT?
THAT PROVES IT TO ME. WE NEED TO FIND THE OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO GET NICOLE BACK TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.
WE WERE HOPING YOU'D HELP US WITH THAT SINCE...Y'KNOW...
RIGHT *UM*. HOLD ON LET ME... LET ME PULL UP OUR MISSION FILES...
MISSION STATUSES
OKAY, SO...BUNNIE AND SALLY ARE IN DEEP COVER ON MISSIONS FOR THE SKY PATROL, ANTOINE'S HELPING UNCLE CHUCK JUST OUTSIDE KNOT-HOLE. AMY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, HELPING GUARD THE PLACE BUT SHE JUST... VANISHED.
I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE WENT CHASING AFTER YOU AGAIN, BUT...?
NOPE, SO NOW WE'VE GOTTA FIND *HER* ON TOP OF THINGS. THANKFULLY, I KNOW SHE CAN HANDLE HERSELF UNTIL WE GET TO HER
BUT--MAN... CHUCK IS *OKAY*. BUNNIE'S STILL WITH US, AND ANTOINE'S ON HIS FEET! AND SALLY'S... SALLY'S ON A MISSION. SHE'S NOT A ROBOT. SHE'S *OKAY*.
Y-YEAH? LOOK, I'LL...I'LL STAY HERE AND WRAP UP THE SKY PATROL AND... SORT THINGS OUT IN MY HEAD.
I'LL STAY, TOO. THERE MIGHT BE MORE ROBOTS.
GOOD IDEA, BIG. WE APPRECIATE IT.

"YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT EGGMAN WILL TRY NEXT."
EFRIKA EGG ARMY BASE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO FLY IN THAT.
IT SHOULD GET ME AS FAR AS ...UM...
POP QUIZ! WHAT'S THE NEAREST BASE AND EGG BOSS?
UH...THAT'D BE LORD HOOD IN AVALON, RIGHT?
HAHA! IT BETTER BE!
WE'RE FULLY FUELED, AND THE ONBOARD COMPUTER IS SYNCHED WITH THE EGGNET, BOSS. WE'RE READY FOR LAUNCH.
THEN LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
TILL WE MEET AGAIN, MY LOYAL EGG SOLDIERS!
WHY DO WE TOLERATE HIM AGAIN, SIR?
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO. BESIDES, IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, THERE'S NO WAY I'M GETTING ON HIS BAD SIDE.

"IF HE'S REALLY GOTTEN THE ROBOTICIZER TO WORK AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO BE THE FIRST GUY IN IT."

NOT THAT I WOULD QUESTION YOUR GENIUS, BOSS, BUT WHY NOT STAY THE NIGHT? REST, RECUPERATE, NOT RISK FALLING ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL AND PLUNGING US TO CERTAIN DOOM?

BECAUSE THERE'S NO TIME. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE DEATH EGG AND LAUNCH IT SO I CAN FIND A WAY TO FIX THINGS.

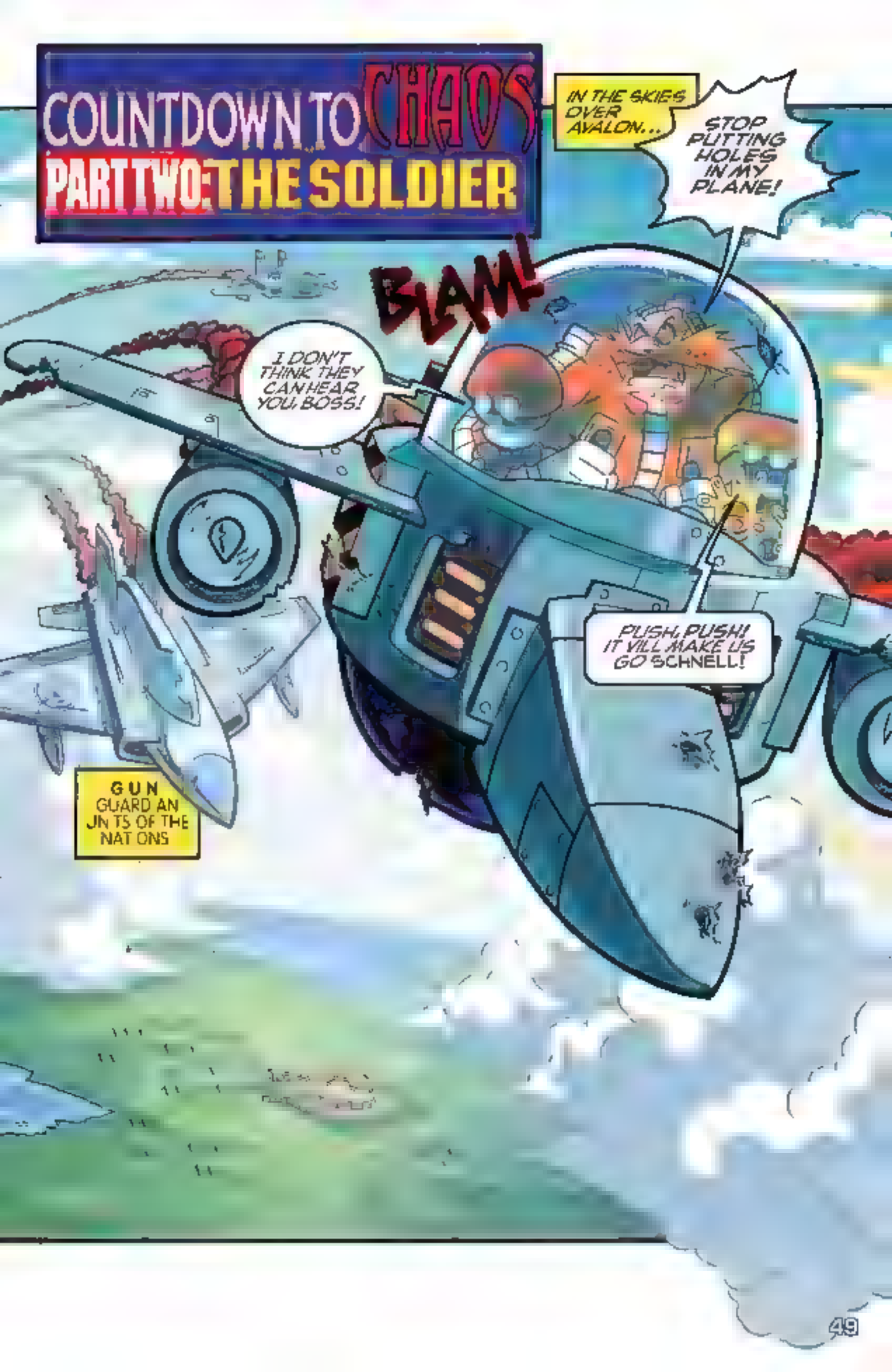
WHAT "THINGS"...?

I HAD A MOMENT TO GET SOME GLOBAL READINGS OFF THE EGGNET, AND ...WELL...

...REMEMBER WHEN I SAID I MIGHT HAVE BEEN HASTY IN STOPPING SONIC FROM FIXING REALITY?

CHAPTER 3

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 254
COVER BY BEN BATES


COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS
PART TWO: THE SOLDIER
IN THE SKIES OVER AVALON...
STOP PUTTING HOLES IN MY PLANE!
BLAM!
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN HEAR YOU, BOSS!
PUSH, PUSH! IT VILL MAKE US GO SCHNELL!
GUN
GUARD AN JN TS OF THE NAT ONS

BLAM!
BLAAA!
BLAAA!
CRASH!
SCREEEEEEECH
HOOD! FRONT AND CENTER!
WE'RE ALIVE. I'M STILL PROCESSING IF I'M HAPPY ABOUT THAT...

HOOD?!
H-HERE, SIR! RIGHT HERE! W-WE WEREN'T EXPECTING—!
WHY IS THE AIR-SPACE OVER MY BASE BEING CONTROLLED BY G.U.N. FIGHTER PLANES?!
LORD MORDRED HOOD
REGIONAL EGG BOSS
WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH BOW AND HIS GANG! I ASKED FOR BADNIK SUPPORT MONTHS AGO! WE WERE SO DISTRACTED BY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, WE WERE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD WHEN THE G.U.N. CARRIER CAME INTO DOCK AND--
I ASKED FOR ANSWERS, NOT EXCUSES! NOW READY AN AIRCRAFT FOR ME. I'M IN A HURRY!
BA-BOOM!
EVEN IF WE HAD ONE, SIR, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO FLY ANYWHERE WHILE THAT G.U.N. CARRIER AND ITS PLANES CONTROL THE AREA.
I'M AFRAID THE EGG MOBILE WON'T BE GOOD FOR MUCH MORE EITHER, BOSS!
NO... BUT IT'LL BE GOOD FOR JUST ENOUGH...
POKE

OUTSIDE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, WOOD ZONE, WESTSIDE ISLAND...

THAT ..THAT WAS *NICE.*

IT WAS KNOTHOLE, NOT *OUR* KNOTHOLE, BUT...

YEAH, IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH. IF KNOTHOLE CAN GET A SECOND CHANCE, MAYBE WE CAN, TOO.

IF WE'RE GOING TO DO *ANYTHING,* WE NEED TO FIND THE OTHER HALF OF OUR TEAM.

SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, I'D =VVT!=

SALLY'S NOT A ROBOT, KNOTHOLE'S STILL STANDING, AND UNCLE CHUCK'S STILL AROUND. MAYBE THIS WHOLE "NEW REALITY" THING ISN'T SO BAD...

HOLD THAT THOUGHT...
HEY THERE, SONNY-BOY! TAILS! FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN
DR. CHUCK THE HEDGEHOG "UNCLE" TO MANY
FOR-EVER?
HA! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
NOTHIN', UNCLE CHUCK. JUST HAPPY TO SEE YOU SAFE AND SOUND.

WELL, NONE OF US WILL BE IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S CAUSING THESE TREMORS.
TREMORS?
MM-HMM. UNUSUAL SEISMIC ACTIVITY FOR THIS AREA. I'LL BET YOU ANYTHING IT'S EGG-MAN. I'M TAKING SOME SAMPLES OF THE STRANGE ENERGY SEEPING OUT OF THE EARTH. HOPEFULLY, IT'LL HELP ME FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT HE'S UP TO.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE NICOLE'S HELP IN ANALYZING THE SAMPLES IF SHE'S FREE.
SO SORRY SVVTIE I'M NEEDED ON ANOTHER SVVTIE
UH-OH. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DEAR?
IT'S... COMPLICATED.
SHORT VERSION: WE NEED TO SEE ANTOINE. ROTOR SAID HE WAS WITH YOU.
SURE IS. HE'S BEEN ACTING AS MY BODY-GUARD AS THE MUTT AND I DO OUR RESEARCH.
AH! BONJOUR, MES AMIS! I WAS NOT EXPECTING YOU HERE.
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE THE SOLDIER
...I AM MISSING SOMETHING, PERHAPS?

YOU FEEL N' OKAY?

YEAH! ÷SNIFF÷ JUST...JUST MISSED MY BUDDY HERE, S'ALL.

ERM ...I AM... TOUCHED ?

OH, BOY! SONIC AND TAILS ARE HERE! IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN!

YEAH! UM...

HAHA! YOU CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN "THE MUTT!"

WAIT, MUTTSKI ?

THAT'S MY NAME! DON'T WEAR IT OUT!

BEN "MUTT" MUTTSKI
CHUCK'S APPRENTICE

WHY ARE THEY ACTING SO-- HOW YOU SAY-- "FUNKY?"

I DUNNO, MAYBE THEY HAD A BAD BATCH OF CHILI DOGS ON THE FLIGHT OVER.

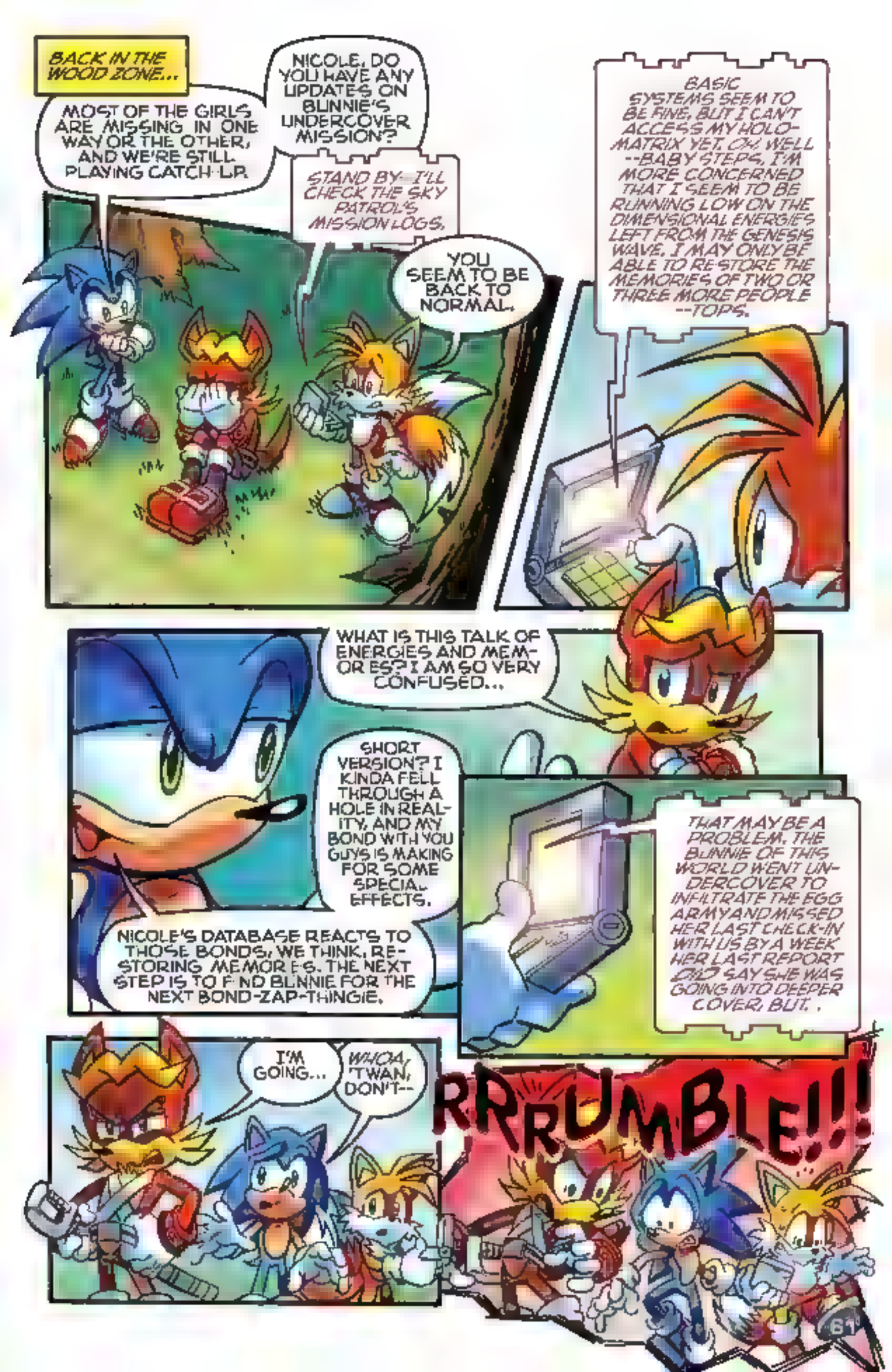
ALL RIGHT! SO--MUTT AND I HAVE WORK TO DO. DON'T YOU BOYS SAY YOU HAD BUSINESS WITH ANTOINE?
RIGHT!
IMPORTANT STUFF!
HEY! LET'S GET UNCLE CHUCK 'N ON THIS, TOO!
NOT A GOOD IDEA... WE'RE STILL TESTING THE MEMORY RESTORATION ON OUR TEAMMATES, WHO WE'RE PRETTY SURE CAN BE RESTORED. CHUCK WAS A FREEDOM FIGHTER, BUT HE WAS ALSO GONE FOR A LONG TIME AS A ROBOTICIZED SLAVE. RIGHT NOW, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD HAVE TOO MANY VARIABLES--OR FOLKS WITH SCRAMBLED MEMORIES.
HMPH. ALL RIGHT, BUT HE'S FIRST ON THE LIST AFTER WE'VE FOUND EVERYONE ELSE.
IF YOU ARE HERE WITH ZE NEW MISSION, I MUST BE DECLINING. DO NOT BE MISUNDERSTANDING, THIS BODY-GUARDING? PEH! BORING! NOT ZE SINGLE BADNIK ATTACK! BUT UNCLE CHUCK'S WORK IS IMPORTANT, AND ZO I MUST REMAIN AT HIS SIDE.
WE DON'T NEED YOU TO GO ANYWHERE. WE JUST NEED YOU TO...WELL... BRACE YOURSELF.
HOLD ON! MAYBE 'TWAN SHOULD SIT DOWN FIRST, OR..
WHAT IS ZE MATTER WITH ZE TWO OF YOU? YOU ARE ACTING AS IF I AM ZE GHOST, HERE TO BE HAUNTING YOU. IF YOU ARE NEEDING ME, SAY SO. IF I MUST BE DOING SOMETHING TO HELP, I WILL. DO IT. STOP BEING ZE NAMBY-PAMBIES.
ALL RIGHT, 'TWAN. THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO DO THIS, SO..
JUST TAKE NICOLE.

...MON DIEU...
EASY, BUDDY, I'VE GOTCHA.
I WAS... I WAS...
(TOLDJA TO SIT DOWN FIRST.)
HURT, THAT'S ALL. BAD? YEAH, IN A COMA? SURE. BUT YOU WERE ALIVE AND YOU WERE GONNA RECOVER.
SONIC GOT YOU TO THE HOSPITAL JUST IN TIME.
RIGHT! YOU'RE A FIGHTER! YOU HELD ON AND -!
UHT-TUT-TUT-TUT! PLEASE, MES AMIS...
MY THOUGHTS...THEY ARE JUMBLED. WHERE IS BUNNIE? HOW'S MY WIFE?

MEANWHILE...
DYO-HO-HO! THOSE G.U.N. FOOLS WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM!
I'M RIGHT HERE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE HITTING THEM WITH...
SHUT IT. I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE DEATH EGG AS FAST AS POSSIBLE! IF THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH G.U.N., SO BE IT!
JAWOHL, MEIN EMPEROR!
AWOOOGA!
BOOM!
AWOOOGA!
WAH-HA-HA HA! COME AT ME, BOTS!
BLAM!
CLANG!

SCRAMBLE ALL FIGHTERS!
BOOM!
BOOM!
NAH-AH-AH! NOT TODAY!
ON TO PHASE TWO! HOP TO IT!
JOY. NOW WE GET TO RUN THROUGH THE FIRE-FIGHT...
HEY! WHAT-- THE--
YOU BETTER FIND ZE LIFE BOATS! ZIS CARRIER IST GOING TO BE KAPUT!
ESCAPE CRAFT SECURED, BOSS. YOU MIGHT WANT TO HURRY. I'M MOVING.

YOU'VE SERVED ME WELL, FAITHFUL EGG MOBILE. I SURE KNOW HOW TO BUILD 'EM!
AWOOOGA!
AWOOOGA!
BOOM!
I CAN CONFIRM THE COMMAND SIGNAL TO THE G.U.N. ARMORED UNITS IS DOWN. WE'RE IN THE CLEAR.
AND NOW YOU KNOW WHY I AM THE BEST!
HAHAHAHAHA!


BACK IN THE WOOD ZONE...
MOST OF THE GIRLS ARE MISSING IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, AND WE'RE STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP.
NICOLE, DO YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES ON BUNNIE'S UNDERCOVER MISSION?
STAND BY--I'LL CHECK THE SKY PATROL'S MISSION LOGS.
YOU SEEM TO BE BACK TO NORMAL.
BASIC SYSTEMS SEEM TO BE FINE, BUT I CAN'T ACCESS MY HOLO-MATRIX YET. OH, WELL --BABY STEPS. I'M MORE CONCERNED THAT I SEEM TO BE RUNNING LOW ON THE DIMENSIONAL ENERGIES LEFT FROM THE GENESIS WAVE. I MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO RE-STORE THE MEMORIES OF TWO OR THREE MORE PEOPLE --TOPS.
WHAT IS THIS TALK OF ENERGIES AND MEM-OR ES? I AM SO VERY CONFUSED...
SHORT VERSION? I KINDA FELL THROUGH A HOLE IN REAL-ITY, AND MY BOND WITH YOU GUYS IS MAKING FOR SOME SPECIAL EFFECTS.
NICOLE'S DATABASE REACTS TO THOSE BONDS, WE THINK, RE-STORING MEMOR E-S. THE NEXT STEP IS TO F ND BUNNIE FOR THE NEXT BOND-ZAP-THINGIE.
THAT MAY BE A PROBLEM. THE BUNNIE OF THIS WORLD WENT UN-DERCOVER TO INFILTRATE THE EGG ARMY AND MISSED HER LAST CHECK-IN WITH US BY A WEEK. HER LAST REPORT DID SAY SHE WAS GOING INTO DEEPER COVER, BUT. .
I'M GOING...
WHOA, 'TWAN, DON'T--
RRRUMBLE!!!

AAAAAH HHHHHHH!
SONIC! MY RESEARCH --!
PRIORITIES, JNC!
SHING!
GET 'EM TOPSIDE! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YA!

TAKE ZEM BOTH! I'LL CLEAR ZE WAY!
SHING!
TING!
TING!
TING!

GOTCHA! YOU'D BETTER BE WORTH IT!
CRASH!
GAK! KOFF! HACK!
GAG! HACK!

I AM GOTTING YOU!
HANG ON, SONIC!
HAAACK! KOFF! GAG!
SONIC! SPEAK TO ME! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HRRRG! RRRRRGH --!
--RRRGY--YEAH, KOFF! YEAH, I'LL BE KOFF! FINE.

SON C! WHAT HAPPENED?!
GROUND SHOOK. YOU FELL. I SAVED YOUR RESEARCH. LOST A BIT OF IT, THOUGH. SORRY.
YOU WERE *AWESOME!* THAT SPIN BLADE BALL ATTACK WAS ALL *WHOOSH!*
WERE YOU NOT SCREAMING IN TERROR ZE MOMENT AGO?
YEAH, BUT NOW WE'RE FINE! AND YOU'RE *STILL* AWESOME!
OUI, OUI, MERCI.
HOW MUCH OF THE SAMPLE DID YOU INHALE? YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY. WE'LL GET YOU TO KNOTHOLE AND...
WHY? TO TELL THE DOC THAT STUFF SMELLS NASTY? I'M *FINE,* UNC!
SIGH! I ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD MORE SKULL THAN SENSE.
IT'S GOTTEN ME THIS FAR, HASN'T IT?
TRUE ENOUGH. THANK YOU, BOYS, FOR EVERYTHING.
LOOKS LIKE WE LOST AN ENTIRE SAMPLE.
HMPH, ALL THAT TIME AND EFFORT LOST IN A MATTER OF SECONDS. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE WHAT'S LEFT WILL BE ENOUGH TO ANALYZE.
TAILS--
--BE MAKING SURE SONIC SEES ZE DOCTORS. I WILL GO WITH THEM.
C'MON, MUTT. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THE VILLAGERS ARE SAFE, AND THEN IT'S STRAIGHT TO SPAGONIA TO STUDY THE SAMPLES. GOOD LUCK ON YOUR MISSION, BOYS! AND SONIC? *SEE A DOCTOR!* THAT WAS *SUPER CONCENTRATED* "MYSTERY GAS"!
I DID! YOU'RE A DOCTOR!
A *MEDICAL* DOCTOR!
BYE!

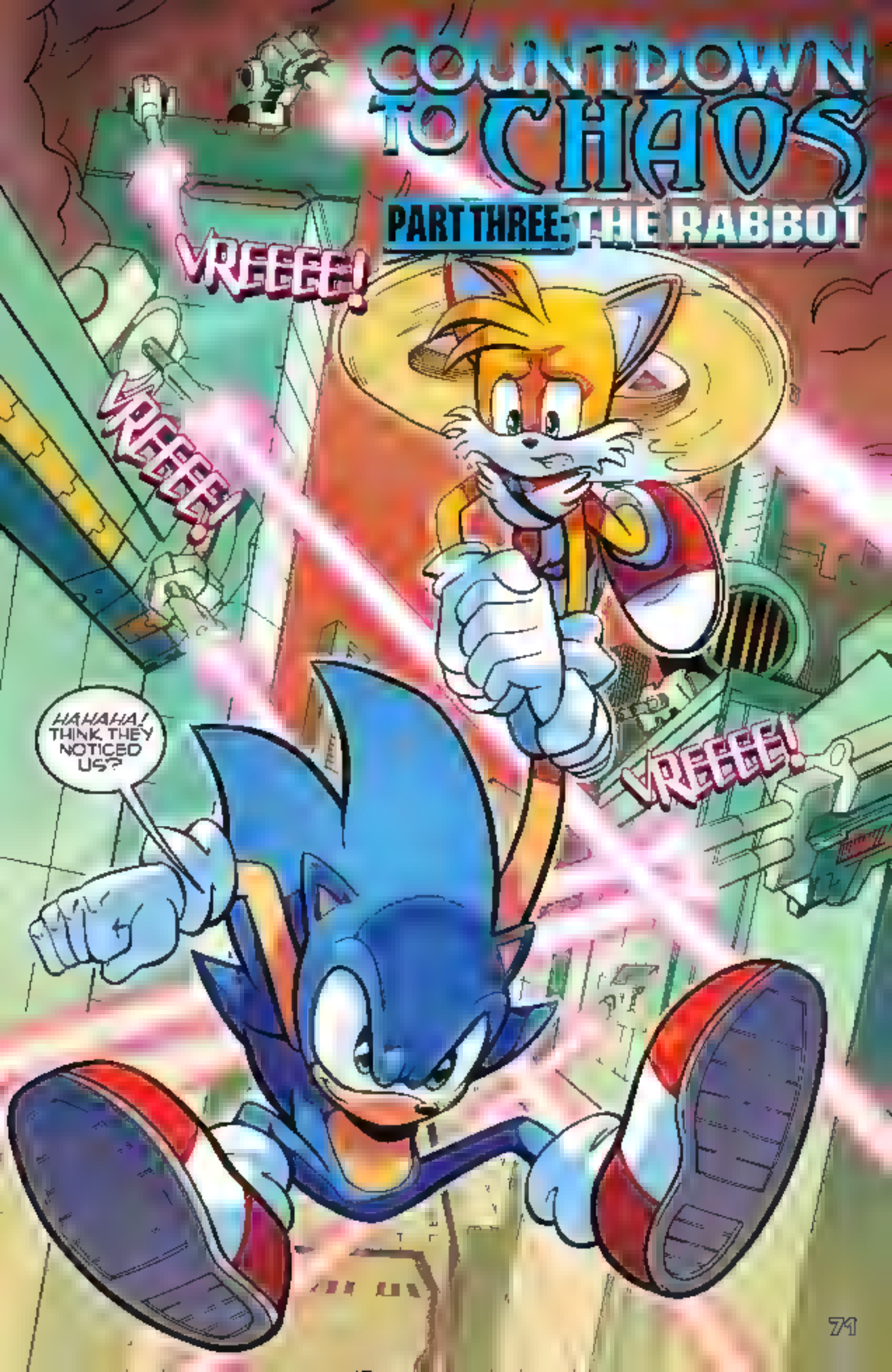
YOU SURE? YOU SAID IT WAS *BORING.*
OUI. BUT TODAY IS PROVING DANGER MAY STRIKE AT ANY TIME, *NON?* IF CHUCK'S RESEARCH CAN HELP STOP ZE TREMORS, THEN HE *MUST* DELIVER HIS RESEARCH SAFELY. ONLY AFTER THAT WILL I REJOIN YOU.
AND I KNOW I CAN TRUST IN ZE TWO OF YOU. FOR *EVERYTHING.*
THANKS, 'TWAN. ANYTHING YOU WANT US TO TELL BUNNIE WHEN WE FIND HER?
OUI.
"TELL HER I AM WELL, BUT WILL NOT BE WHOLE UNTIL I AM WITH HER AGAIN."

METROPOLIS ZONE...
HEY! ROOKIE! YOU BETTER GET FULLY SUITED UP BEFORE SOMEONE REPORTS YOU!
RIGHT! SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
ALL HAIL THE EGGMAN EMPIRE, AND ALL THAT JAZZ, RIGHT?

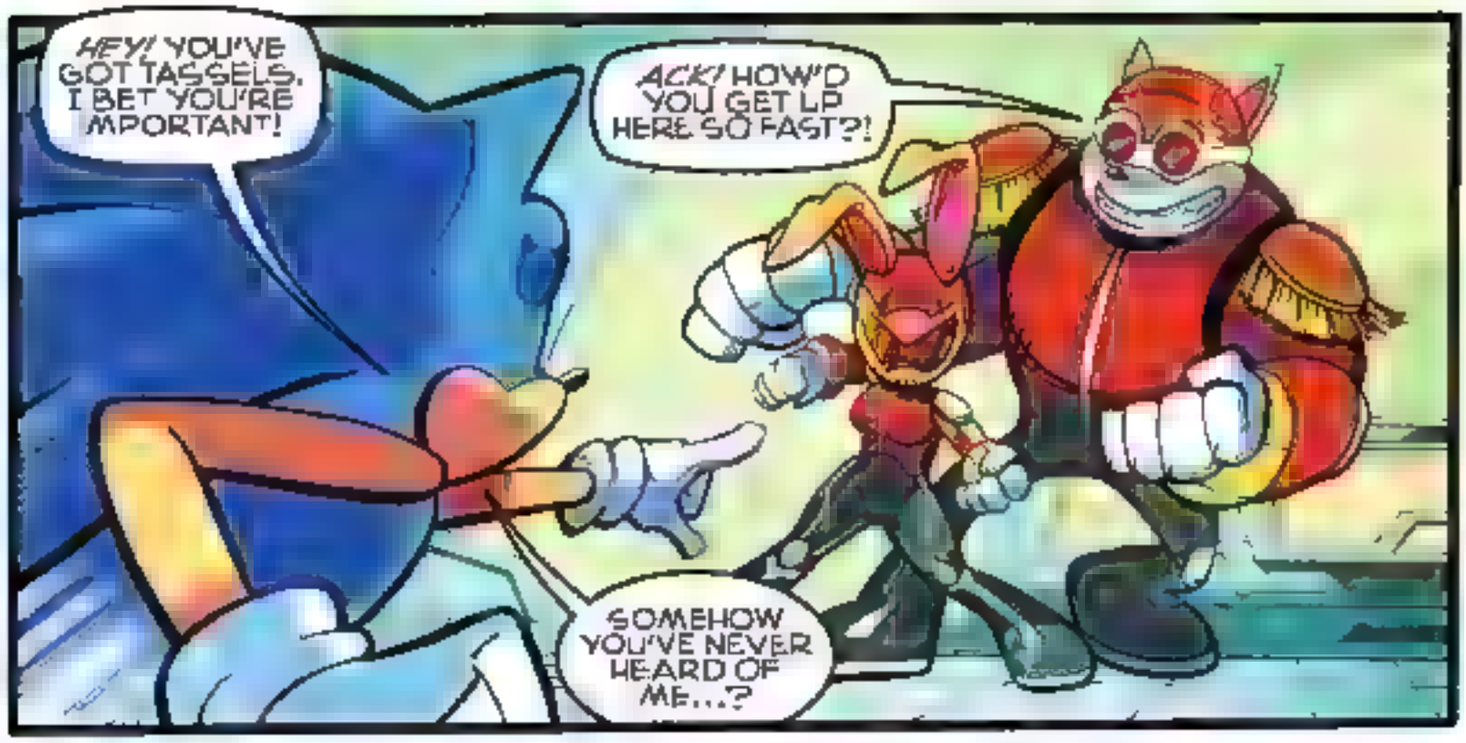
CHAPTER 4

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 253
COVER BY BEN BATES

METROPOLIS ZONE, IN THE SKIES ABOVE WESTSIDE ISLAND...
LAST CHANCE--ANY WORD FROM BUNNIE?
NEGATIVE. I CAN'T REACH HER, AND SHE'S NOT CALLED ÷KZZT!÷
THEN... IT'S LIKELY SHE'S LOST HER COVER AND SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED.
RIGHT SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE AND POLITELY ASK THE THE EGG ARMY TO LET HER GO.
"POLITELY ASK," HE SAYS... KEEP THE TORNADO OUT OF RANGE, T-PUP. I'LL CALL YOU FOR PICK-UP.
BARK-BARK!


COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS
PART THREE: THE RABBOT
VREEEE!
VREEEE!
VREEEE!
HAHAHA! THINK THEY NOTICED US?

NO TIME FOR MESSING AROUND. WE'VE GOT TO GET STRAIGHT TO THE COMMAND TOWER...
VREEEE!
...AND FIND OUT WHERE SHE'S BEING HELD AND YADDA YADDA YADDA. I'VE DONE THIS HERO THING ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW THE DRILL.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I DONE THIS?
TWO WORLDS, TWO TIME-LINES... AND IT'S GETTING HARD TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE IN MY HEAD...
GOTTA ROLL WITH IT FOR NOW, THO'. ONCE I'VE GOT MY FRIENDS TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST.


HEY! YOU'VE GOT TASSELS. I BET YOU'RE IMPORTANT!
ACK! HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE SO FAST?!
SOMEHOW YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME...?

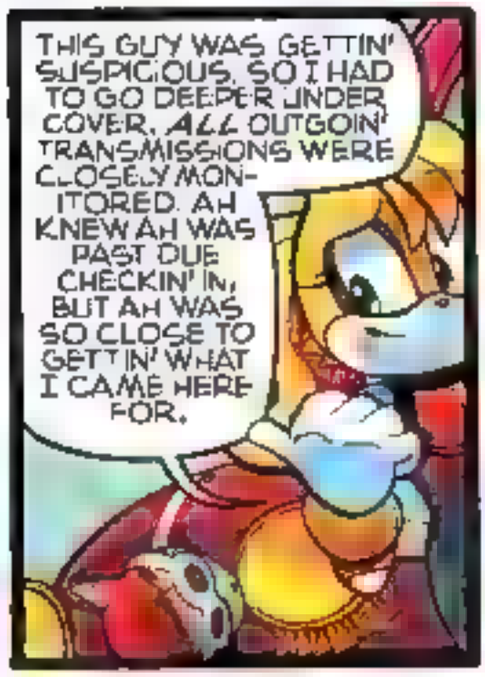
LOCK US DOWN! THEY'RE NOT ESCAPING!

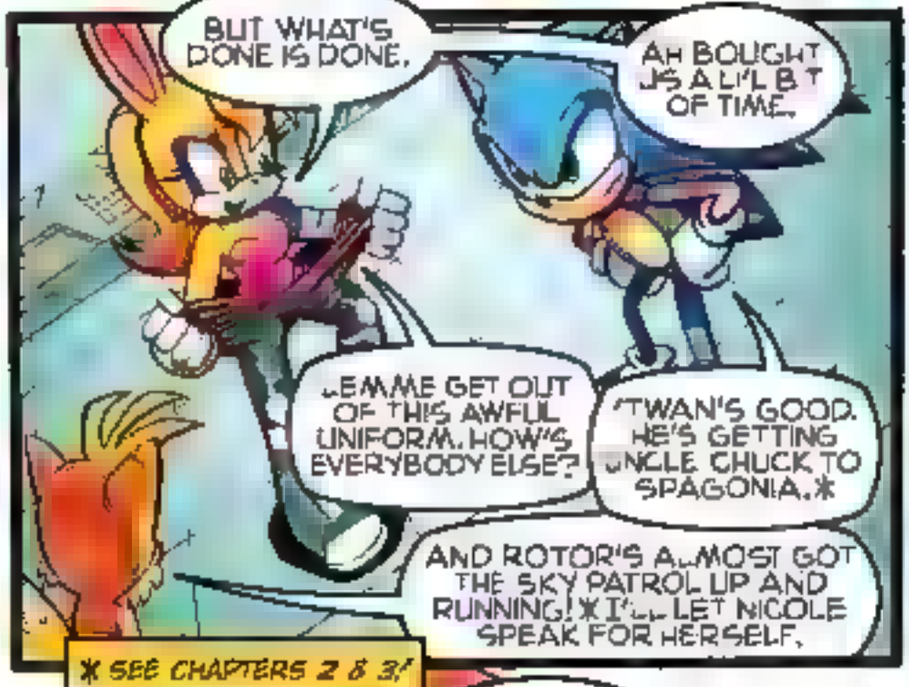
SHAKOOM!

OKAY, DUDE? I DON'T LIKE WALLOPING EGG SOLDIERS LIKE YOU. YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT- I GET THAT, BUT WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE A FRIEND OF OURS, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END. SO WORK WITH ME ON THIS, MAN.

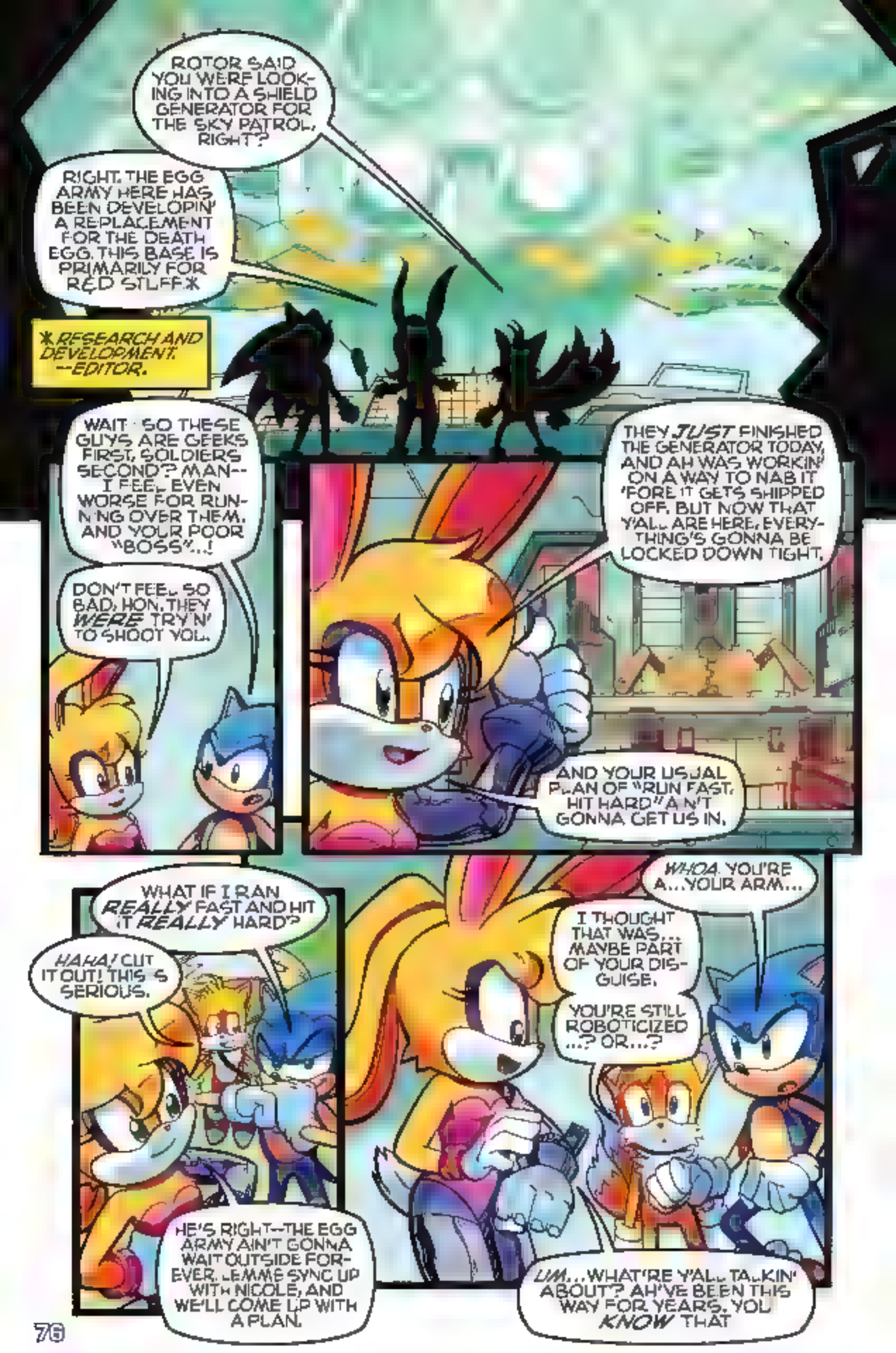
YOU CAN'T INTIMIDATE ME! I TAKE ORDERS FROM DR. EGGMAN!
UH-HUH. "OF COURSE, DOCTOR! YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?"
GRRR- ATTACK!

FOOM!
I I KNEW... THERE... WAS A... SPY...
THIS IS SCARLETT.
WE'VE GOT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SEALED IN THE COMMAND ROOM. DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR! GET EVERYONE ARMED AND IN POSITION FIRST!
NOW THEN...
...HOWDY, BOYS. FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES.
BUNNIE D'COOLETTE THE RABBOT





* SEE CHAPTERS 2 & 3!

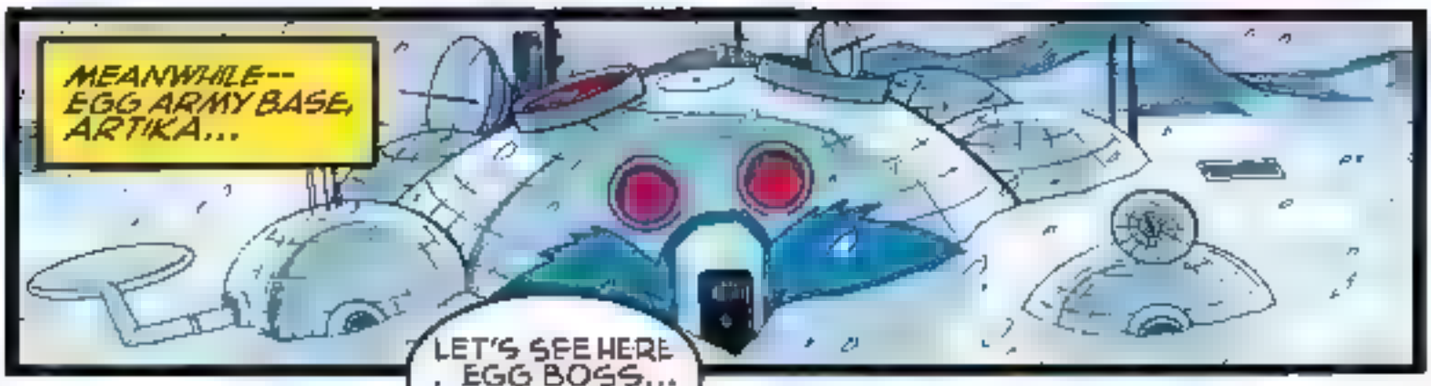

ROTOR SAID YOU WERE LOOKING INTO A SHIELD GENERATOR FOR THE SKY PATROL, RIGHT?
RIGHT. THE EGG ARMY HERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPIN' A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DEATH EGG. THIS BASE IS PRIMARILY FOR R&D STUFF.*
*RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. --EDITOR.
WAIT... SO THESE GUYS ARE GEEKS FIRST, SOLDIERS SECOND? MAN-- I FEEL EVEN WORSE FOR RUNNING OVER THEM. AND YOUR POOR "BOSS"...!
DON'T FEEL SO BAD, HON. THEY WERE TRY'N' TO SHOOT YOU.
THEY JUST FINISHED THE GENERATOR TODAY, AND AH WAS WORKIN' ON A WAY TO NAB IT 'FORE IT GETS SHIPPED OFF. BUT NOW THAT Y'ALL ARE HERE, EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE LOCKED DOWN TIGHT.
AND YOUR USUAL PLAN OF "RUN FAST, HIT HARD" AIN'T GONNA GET US IN.
WHAT IF I RAN REALLY FAST AND HIT IT REALLY HARD?
HAHA! CUT IT OUT! THIS IS SERIOUS.
HE'S RIGHT--THE EGG ARMY AIN'T GONNA WAIT OUTSIDE FOREVER. LEMME SYNC UP WITH NICOLE, AND WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN.
WHOA. YOU'RE A...YOUR ARM...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS... MAYBE PART OF YOUR DISGUISE.
YOU'RE STILL ROBOTICIZED ...? OR...?
UM... WHAT'RE Y'ALL TALKIN' ABOUT? AH'VE BEEN THIS WAY FOR YEARS. YOU KNOW THAT

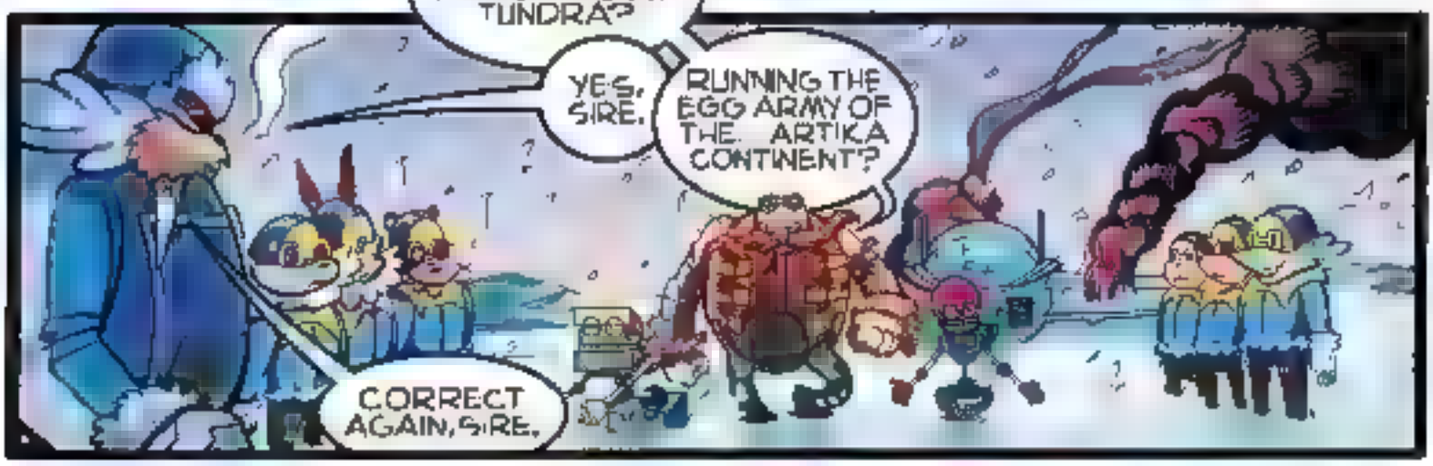
WA.T, I REMEMBER NOW-- CHUCK SAVED HER LIFE BACK WHEN EGGMAN FIRST ATTACKED. Y'KNOW...IN *THIS* REALITY.
I REMEMBER, TOO...I *THINK.*

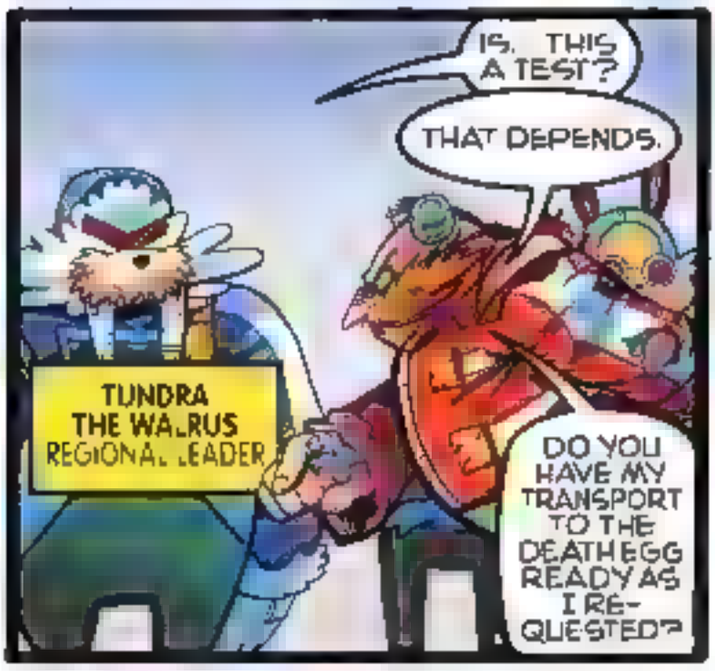
WE STILL NEED BUNNIE TO RESTORE NICOLE'S SYSTEMS...
I HIGHLY SUGGEST WE DO IT LATER, AFTER WE'RE OUT OF HARM'S SKZZT!
I AGREE.

COMPLETING THE CIRCUIT WITH NICOLE *REALLY* MESSES WITH YOUR HEAD, AND WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY TERRITORY RIGHT NOW.
HEY. AH'M STANDIN' *RIGHT* HERE. WHAT ARE Y'ALL BEIN' SO SECRETIVE ABOUT ?

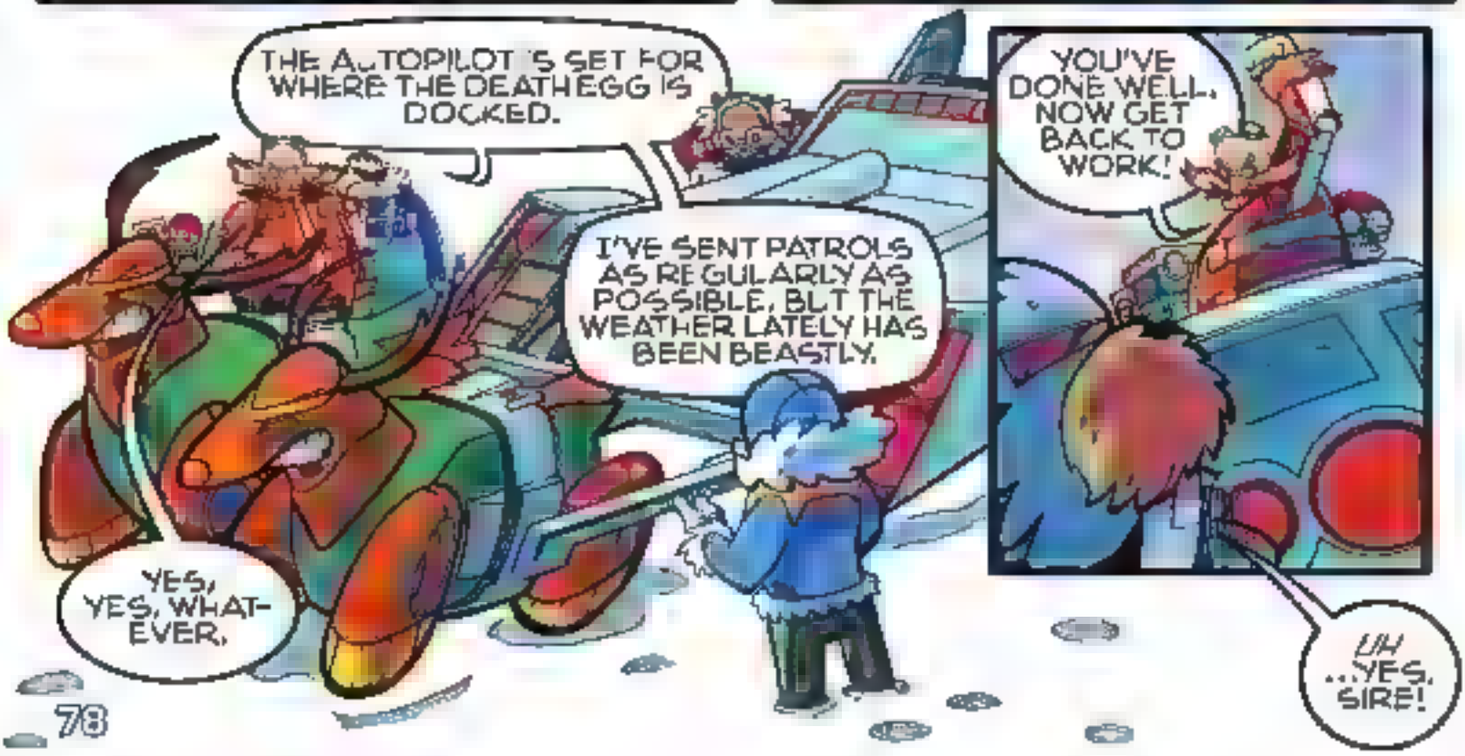
GANG
WE'RE READY TO MOVE ON THE HEDGEHOG. UN-LOCK THE DOORS!
SONIC TOOK HIM DOWN ..*AND* THE DOOR CONTROLS! STAND BY WHILE AH. ..
UHH. NEGATIVE! HE'S TOO STRONG!
WHERE'S THE FORE-MAN?
YOU CAN'T HANDLE HIM ON YOUR OWN! WE'RE COMING IN!
SO,. ABOUT THAT PLAN?


MEANWHILE--
EGG ARMY BASE,
ARTIKA...


LET'S SEE HERE, EGG BOSS... TUNDRA?
YES, SIRE.
RUNNING THE EGG ARMY OF THE ARTIKA CONTINENT?
CORRECT AGAIN, SIRE.

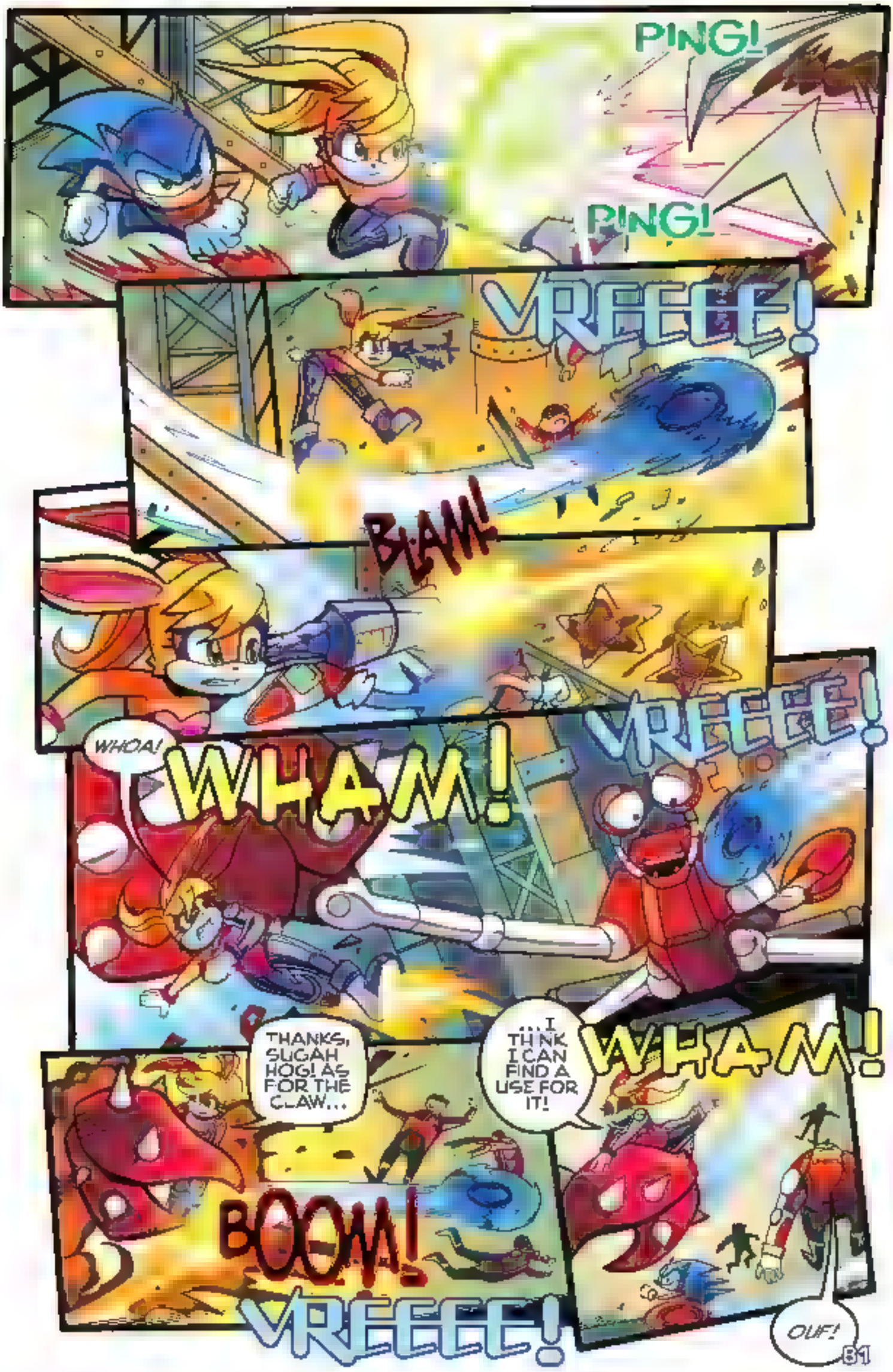

IS THIS A TEST?
THAT DEPENDS.
TUNDRA THE WALRUS
REGIONAL LEADER
DO YOU HAVE MY TRANSPORT TO THE DEATH EGG READY AS I REQUESTED?

READY AND WAITING, SIRE.
THEN, YES, THIS WAS A TEST--AND YOU JUST PASSED!

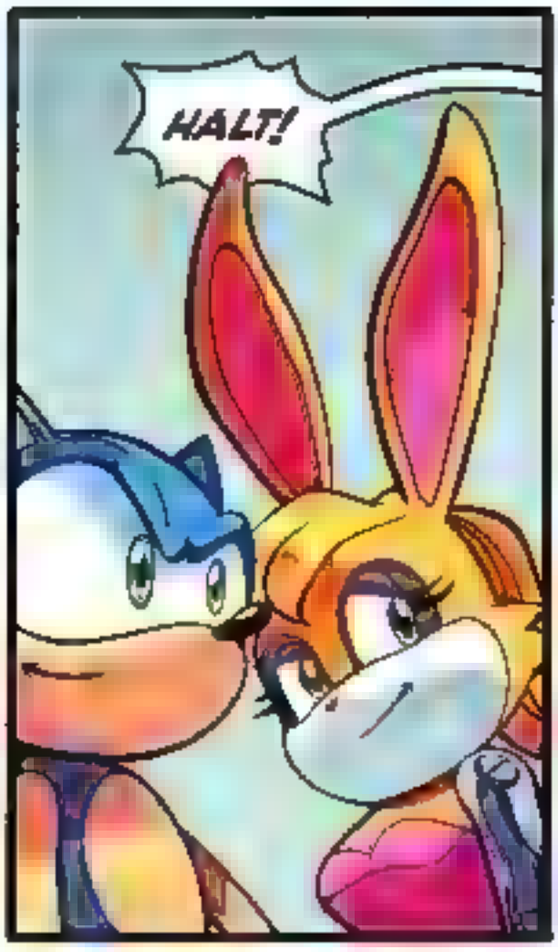

THE AUTOPILOT IS SET FOR WHERE THE DEATH EGG IS DOCKED.
I'VE SENT PATROLS AS REGULARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT THE WEATHER LATELY HAS BEEN BEASTLY.
YES, YES, WHATEVER.
YOU'VE DONE WELL. NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
UH ...YES, SIRE!

AHH... SO CLOSE TO HOME, GLORIOUS, DEADLY HOME.
YOU SEEMED AWFUL FAMILIAR WITH THAT EGG BOSS, SIR.
JA, ESPECIALLY FIR SOMEFONE FRIM A DEEF-RINT TIMELINE.
A TIMELINE TO WHICH WE'RE ADJUSTING... WHETHER WE WANT TO OR NOT. I SUSPECT THAT BEFORE LONG, THIS NEW REALITY--MY NEW HISTORY--WILL TAKE PERMANENT HOLD.
YUMPIN' YIMMINEY! IS THAT GONNA HIPPEN TO US, TOO?
YOU WERE AT THE EPICENTER OF THE REALITY SHIFT WITH ME, SO I'D ASSUME SO. YOUR PROGRAMMING MAY BE REWRITING ITSELF AS WE SPEAK.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING SO HARD TO GET HOME. FIGURING OUT THESE DUAL MEMORIES MUST BE TOUGH.
SIGH! I WONDER IF MY NEW LIFE WILL HAVE BEEN AS "GLAMOROUS" AS THE OLD ONE...
PLEASE, MY BRILLIANT MIND CAN HANDLE IT ALL FINE NO... WHAT CONCERNS ME ARE THE READINGS I GLIMPSED IN EFR KA. * IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE...

BACK IN METROPOLIS ZONE...
CREEEEAK!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SIR! Y-YOU'RE OKAY! WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN THE DOOR AND...
FORGET THE COMMAND ROOM— WE'RE LOCKED DOWN! =KZZT= GET THE HEDGEHOG!
WHAM!
YOU HEARD THE FOREMAN! FORGET THE DOOR! MOVE IT!
SEE? "RUN FAST" IS ALWAYS PART OF THE PLAN.
AH AIN'T RUNNIN' --AH'M FLYIN'!
SAME DIFFERENCE!

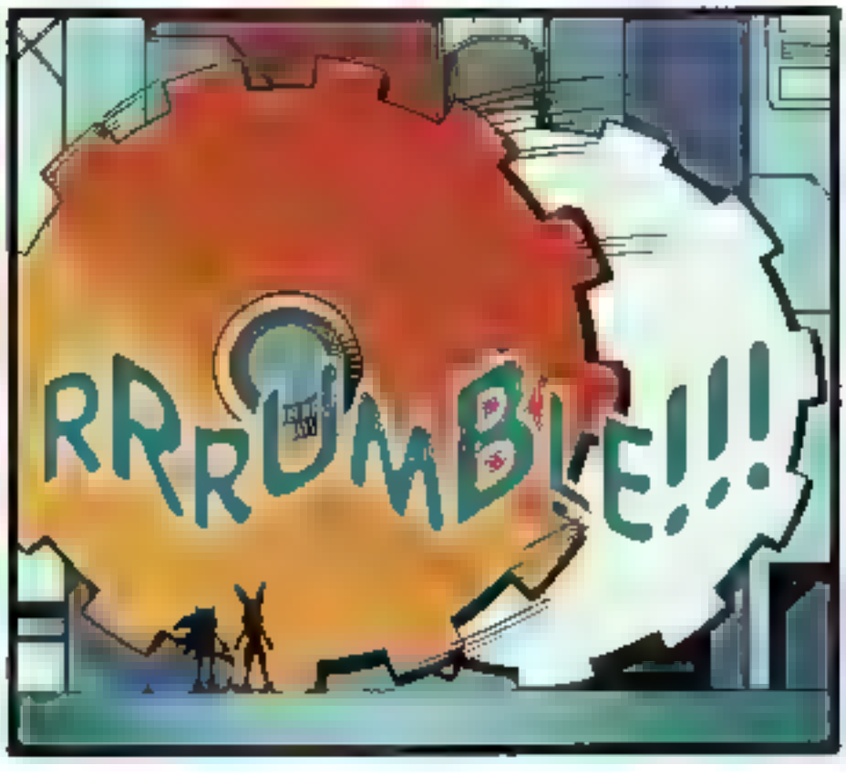

PING!
PING!
VREEEE!
BLAM!
WHOA!
WHAM!
VREEEE!
THANKS, SUGAH HOG! AS FOR THE CLAW...
...I THINK I CAN FIND A USE FOR IT!
WHAM!
BOOM!
VREEEE!
OUF!

THIS IS A DOOR?
YUP. SEE WHY AH SAID WE COULDN'T JUST BUST OUR WAY IN?
EH, I'VE SPIN-DASHED BIGGER.
OH, YOU HAVE NOT!

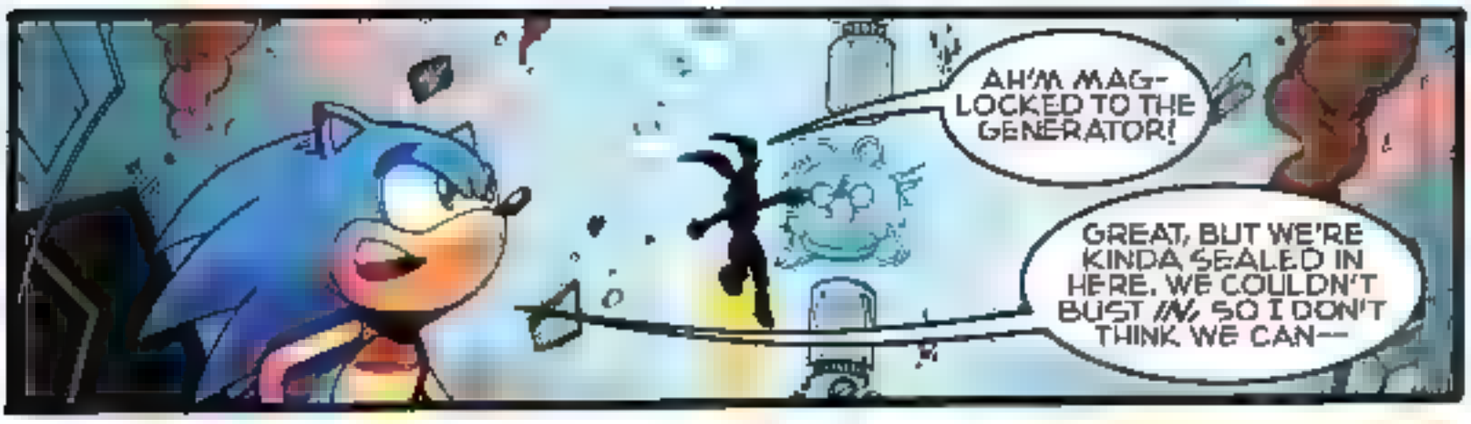

HALT!

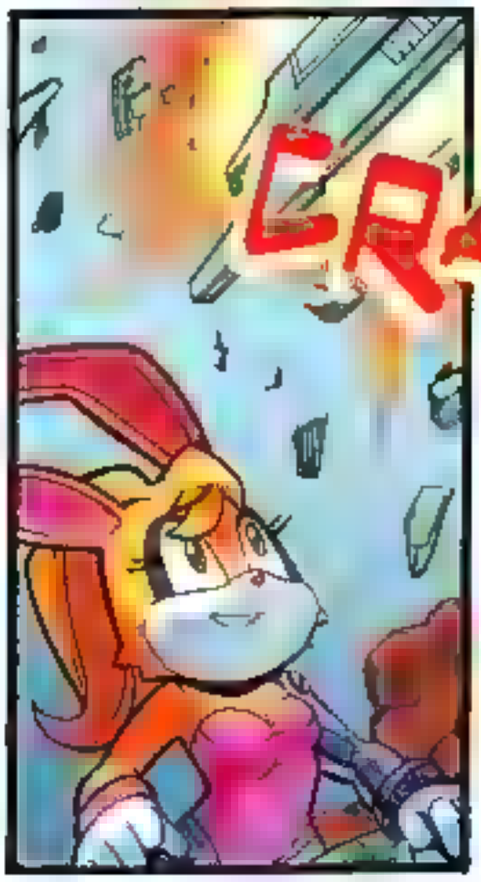
YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED! SURRENDER NOW AND BEG FOR MERCY FROM THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!

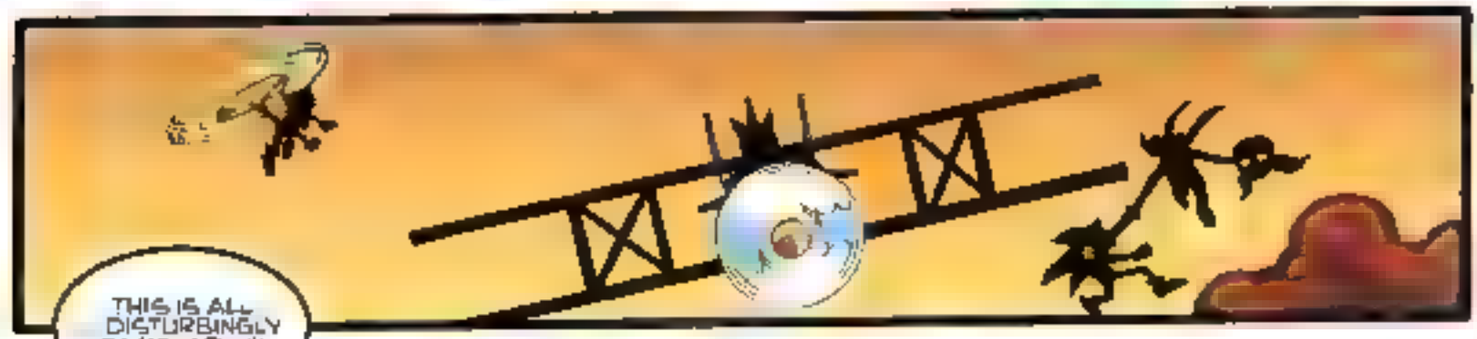
GOODNESS! WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
WE'RE IN POSITION, SUGAR.

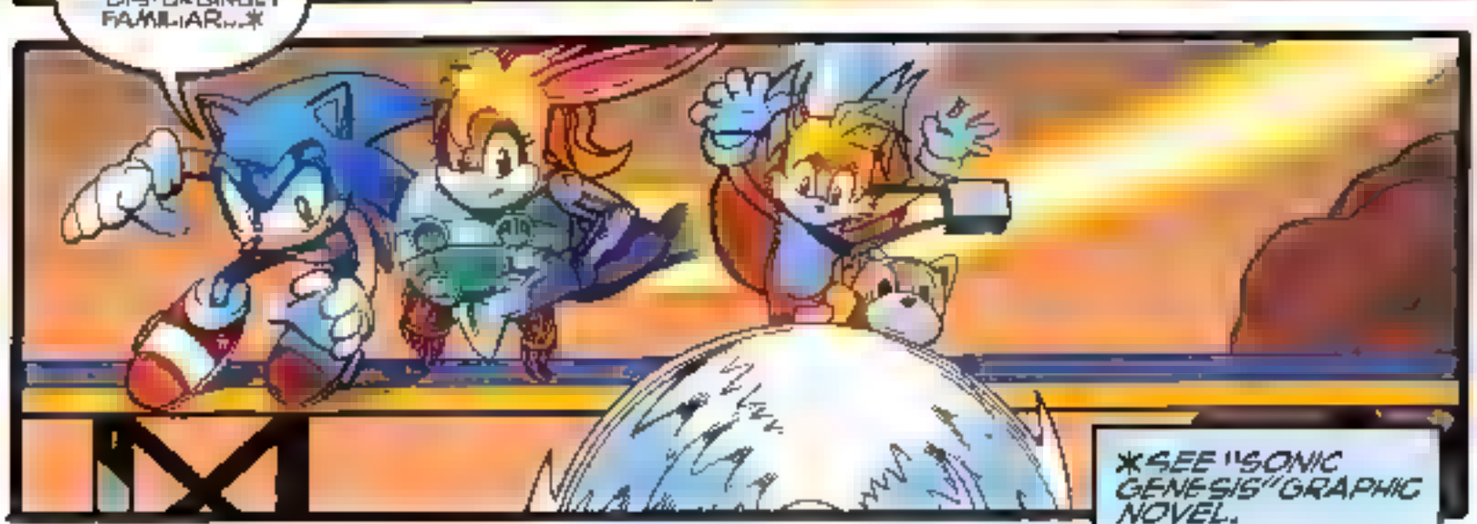

RRRUMBLE!!!

SIR! THE VAULT DOORS ?!
ARE CLOSED! ÷KZZT!÷
N-NO, SIR, THEY'RE OPENING!
ARE YOU SURE? ÷KZZT÷ CHECK AGAIN.
HAHA! HANG ON, GUYS, I'LL OPEN THE CEILING ACCESS FOR YOUR ESCAPE, AND WE'LL--
TAILS? IT'S BUNNIE! WHAT IN TARNATION'S GOIN' ON?!
RRRUMBLE!!!
RRRGH! T'S ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE! I CAN'T--
JUST GO ON! WE'LL MEET'CHA AT THE TORNADO!
EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY! ALL EGG SOLDIERS TO YOUR SECURE SHELTERS! EMERGEN-- ÷SHVK!÷

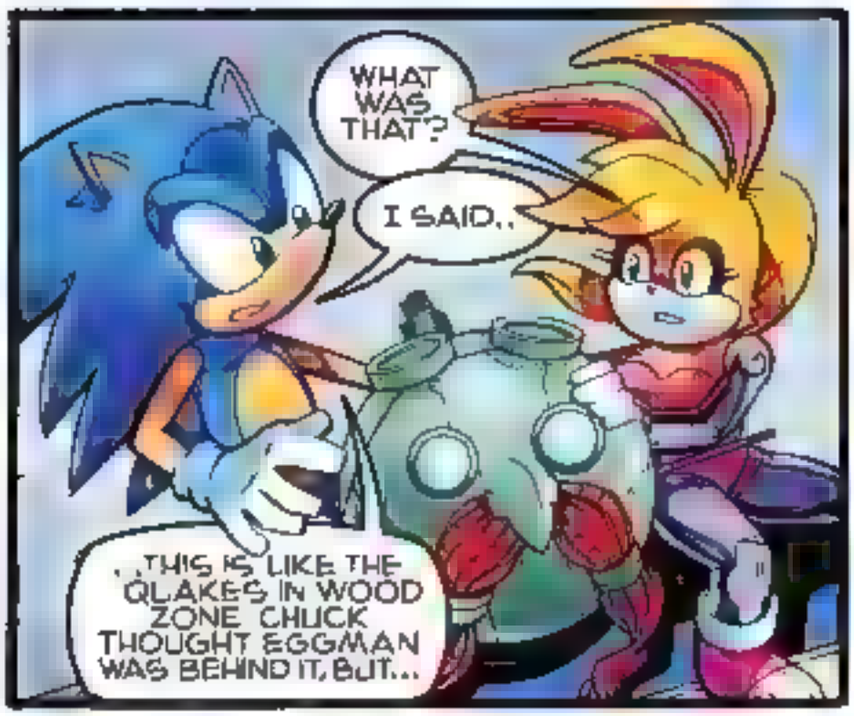




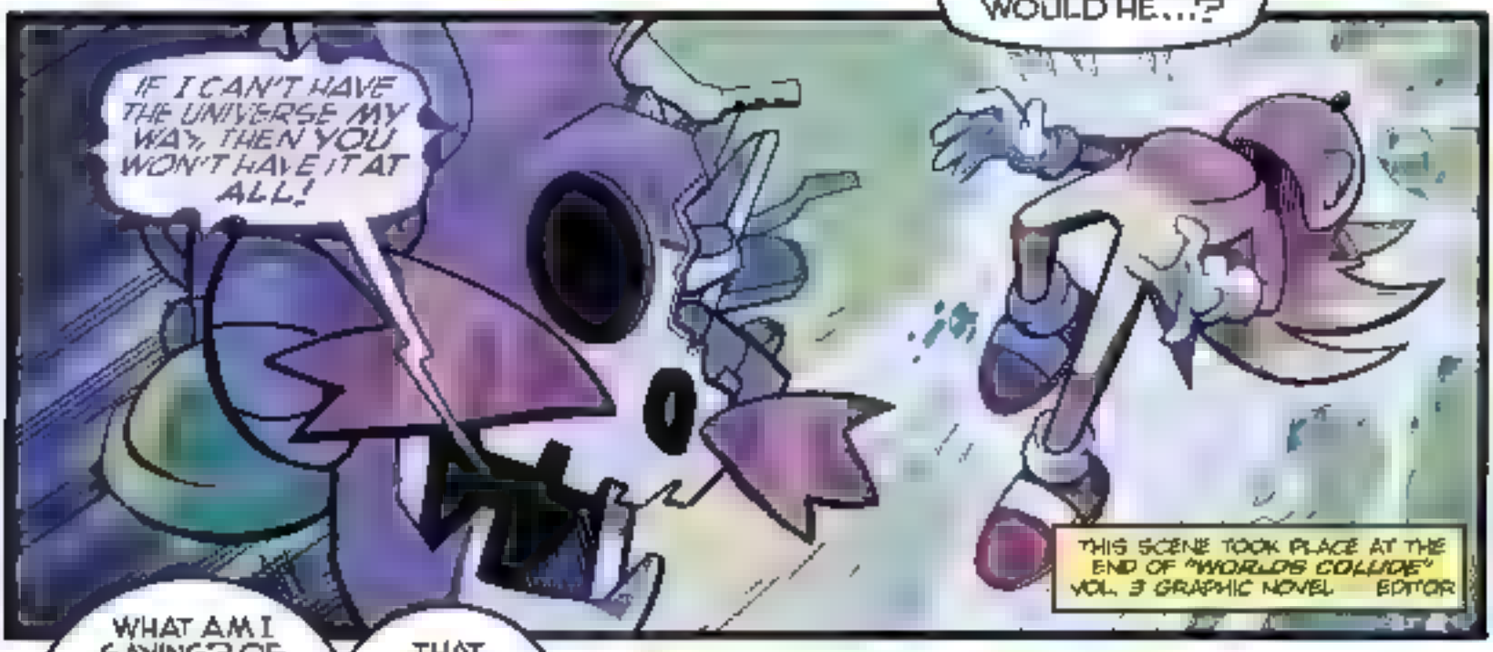


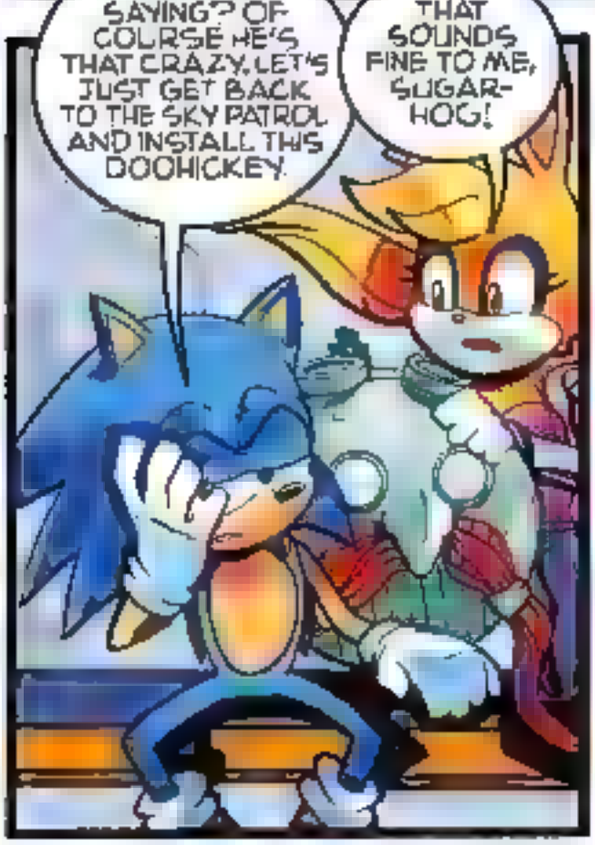


*SEE "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL.

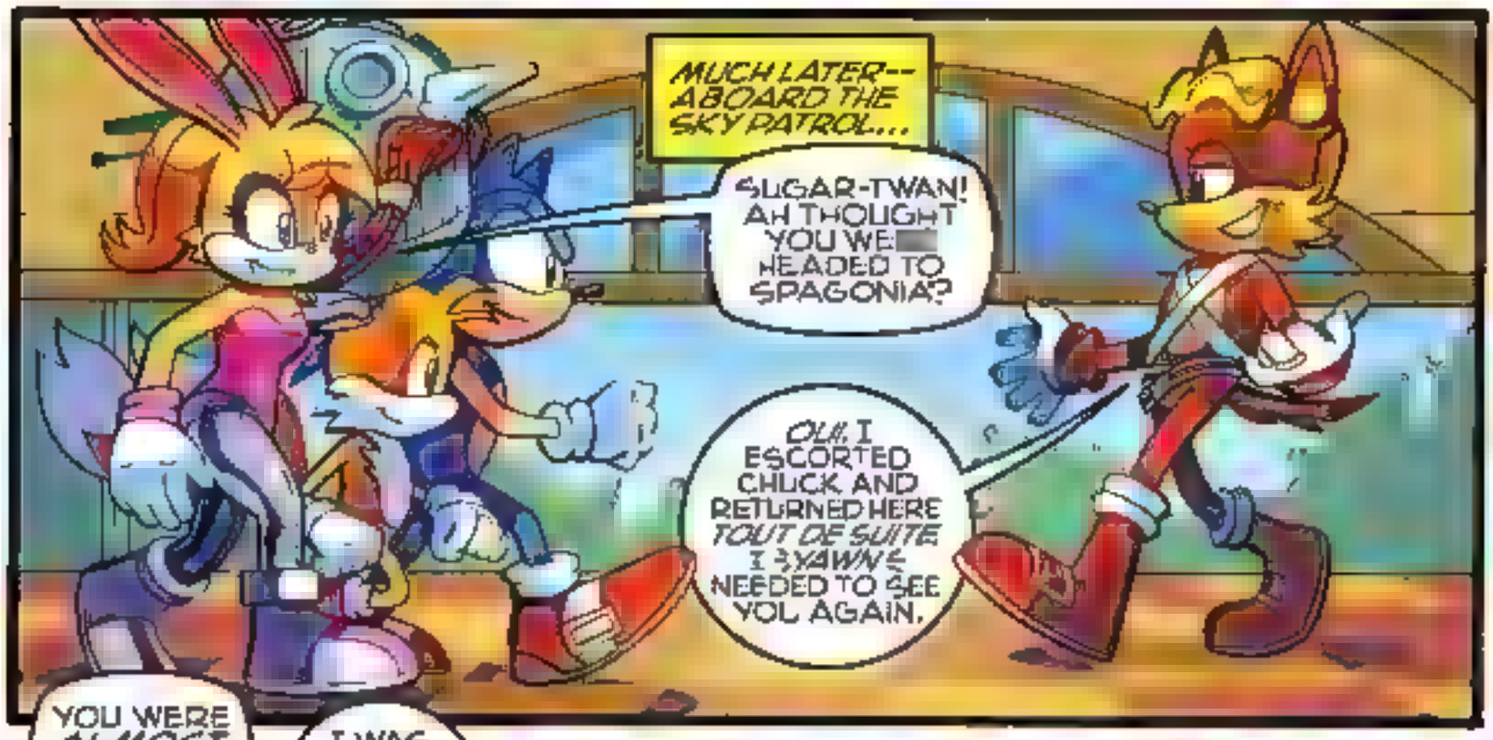

WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID..
..THIS IS LIKE THE QUAKES IN WOOD ZONE. CHUCK THOUGHT EGGMAN WAS BEHIND IT, BUT...

EGGMAN? AH DON'T THINK SO... RECENTLY THERE'D BEEN A LOT OF REPORTS COMIN' IN FROM OTHER EGG ARMY BASES 'BOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.
HE WOULDN'T BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO ENDANGER HIS OWN BASES, WOULD HE...?


IF I CAN'T HAVE THE UNIVERSE MY WAY, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE IT AT ALL!
THIS SCENE TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF "WORLDS COLLIDE" VOL. 3 GRAPHIC NOVEL — EDITOR


WHAT AM I SAYING? OF COURSE HE'S THAT CRAZY. LET'S JUST GET BACK TO THE SKY PATROL AND INSTALL THIS DOOHICKEY.
THAT SOUNDS FINE TO ME, SUGAR-HOG!

ATTENTION-- ALL PERSONNEL! BEGIN CLEAN-UP PROCEDURES!

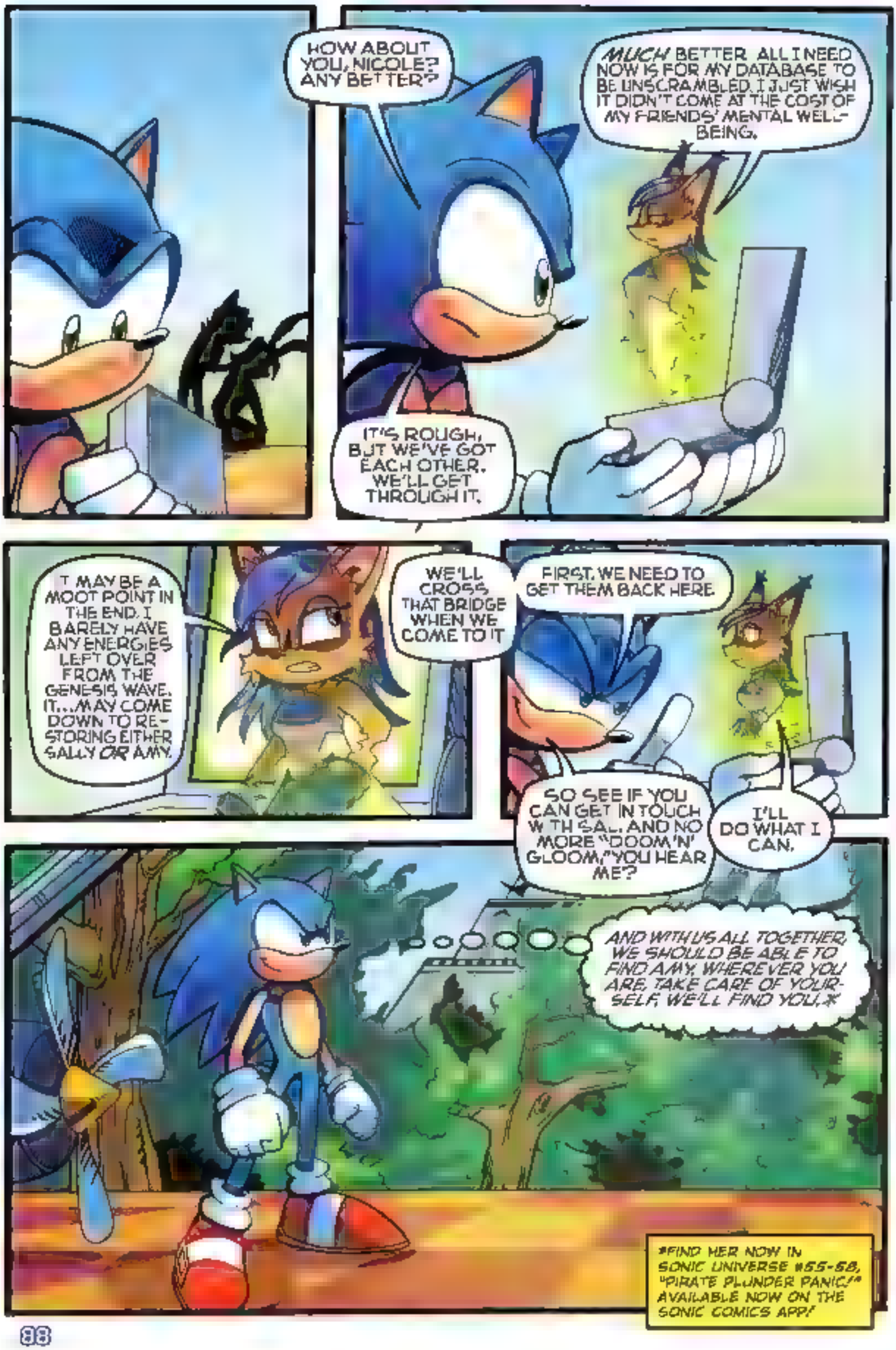

MUCH LATER-- ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...
SUGAR-TWAN! AH THOUGHT YOU WE[redacted] HEADED TO SPAGONIA?
OUI, I ESCORTED CHUCK AND RETURNED HERE TOUT DE SUITE I YAWNS NEEDED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

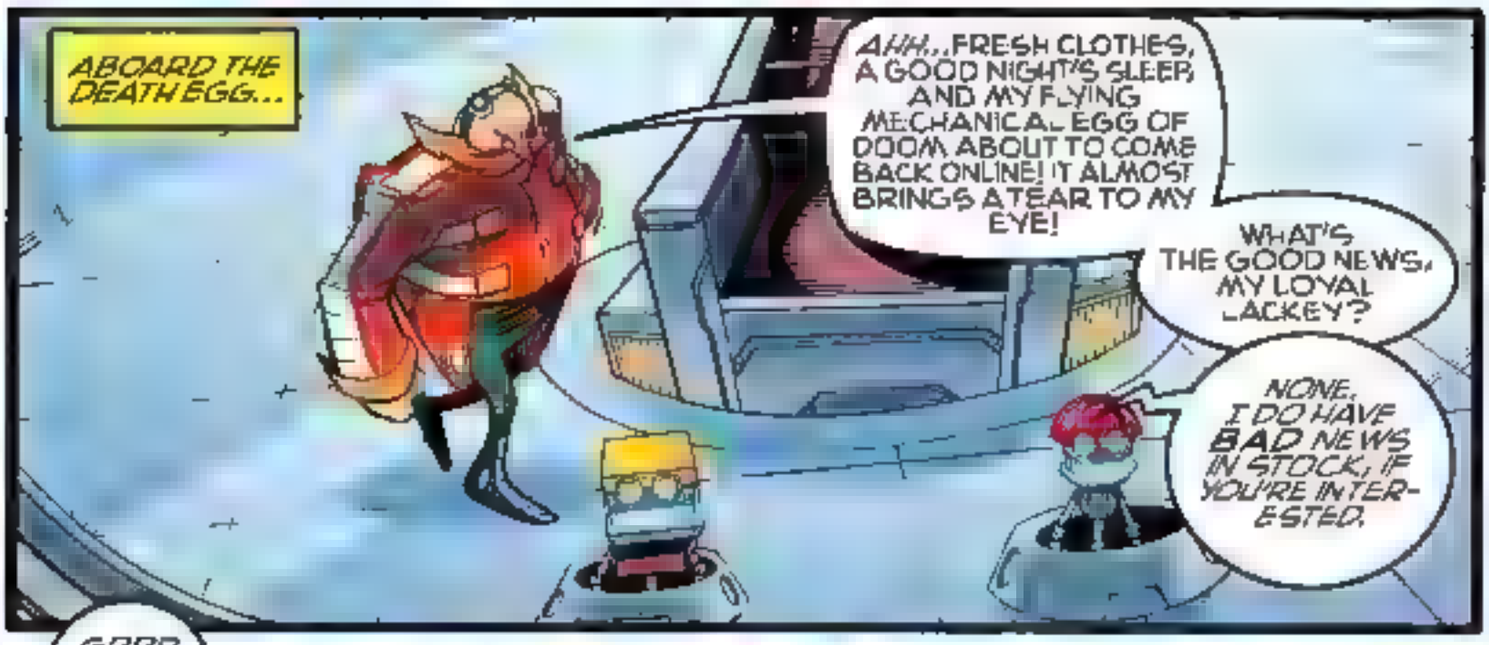
YOU WERE ALMOST ROMANTIC UP UNTIL THAT YAWN.
I WAS HAVING ZE ROUGH FLIGHT HERE.
MINE WAS ROUGHER.

NOW, THEN-- WE'RE HERE, ALL SAFE 'N' SOUND. WHAT WERE Y'ALL WHISPERING ABOUT BACK IN METROPOLIS ZONE?
IT'S A LONG STORY, AND THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO PREPARE ANYONE FOR IT, Y'SEE.

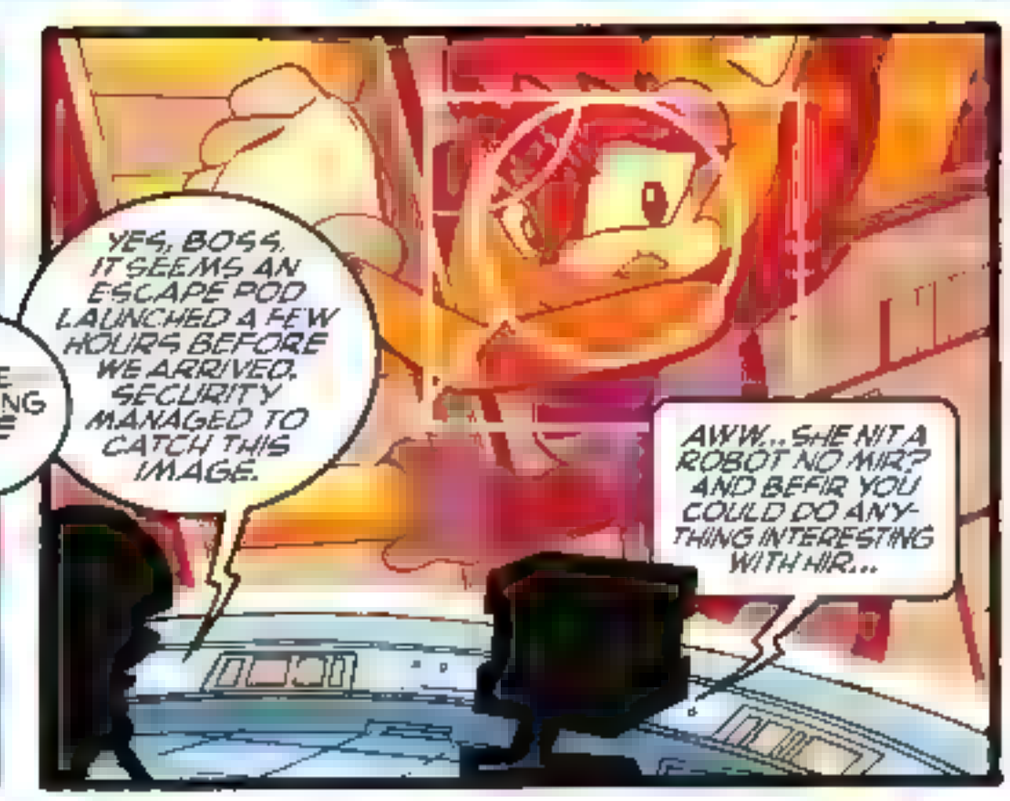
THIS IS ALSO THE REASON I AM COMING HERE QUICKLY. I SHOULD BE HELPING HER THROUGH THIS.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, HERE.
I, I'LL GET THE GENERATOR TO ROTOR..

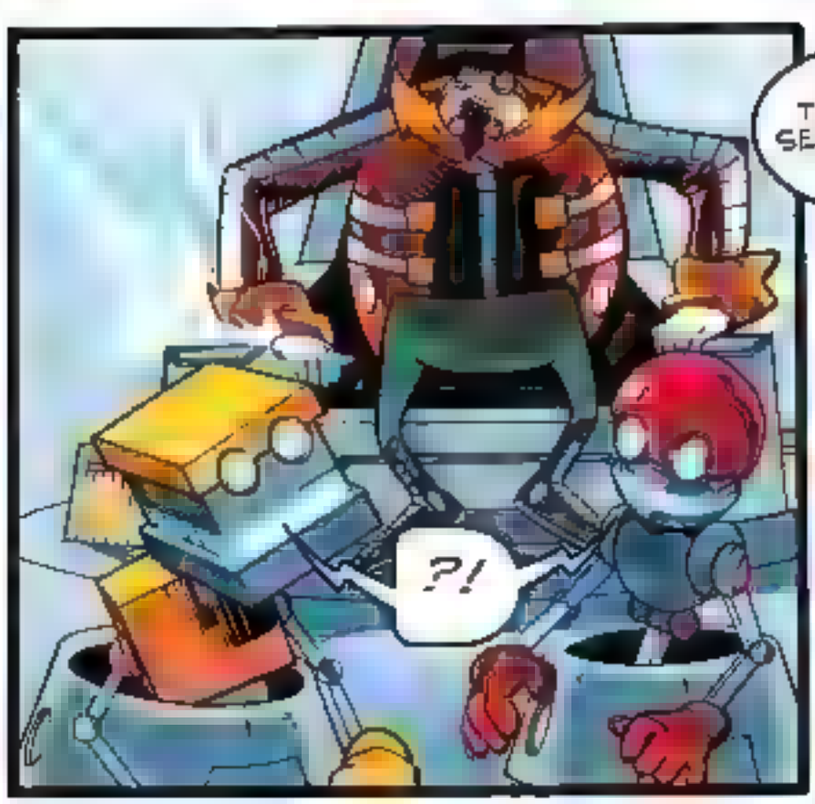
TAKE NICOLE, MON AMOUR, KNOW THAT I AM HERE.
ALL RIGHT. THIS BETTER EXPLAIN WHY Y'ALL ARE ACTIN' SO WEIRD.


HOW ABOUT YOU, NICOLE? ANY BETTER?
MUCH BETTER. ALL I NEED NOW IS FOR MY DATABASE TO BE UNSCRAMBLED. I JUST WISH IT DIDN'T COME AT THE COST OF MY FRIENDS' MENTAL WELL-BEING.
IT'S ROUGH, BUT WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER. WE'LL GET THROUGH IT.
IT MAY BE A MOOT POINT IN THE END. I BARELY HAVE ANY ENERGIES LEFT OVER FROM THE GENESIS WAVE. IT...MAY COME DOWN TO RE-STORING EITHER SALLY OR AMY.
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT
FIRST, WE NEED TO GET THEM BACK HERE.
SO SEE IF YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH SAL. AND NO MORE "DOOM 'N' GLOOM," YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
AND WITH US ALL TOGETHER, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND AMY. WHEREVER YOU ARE, TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF. WE'LL FIND YOU.*
*FIND HER NOW IN SONIC UNIVERSE #55-58, "PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC!" AVAILABLE NOW ON THE SONIC COMICS APP!


ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
AHH...FRESH CLOTHES, A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND MY FLYING MECHANICAL EGG OF DOOM ABOUT TO COME BACK ONLINE! IT ALMOST BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE!
WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, MY LOYAL LACKEY?
NONE. I DO HAVE BAD NEWS IN STOCK, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

GRRR . WHAT NOW?
METROPOLIS ZONE REPORTS MASSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THAT THE SHIELD GENERATOR YOU COMMISSIONED WAS STOLEN BY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
OF ALL THE ANYTHING ELSE ?!


YES, BOSS. IT SEEMS AN ESCAPE POD LAUNCHED A FEW HOURS BEFORE WE ARRIVED. SECURITY MANAGED TO CATCH THIS IMAGE.
AWW...SHE NIT A ROBOT NO MIR? AND BEFIR YOU COULD DO ANYTHING INTERESTING WITH HIR...

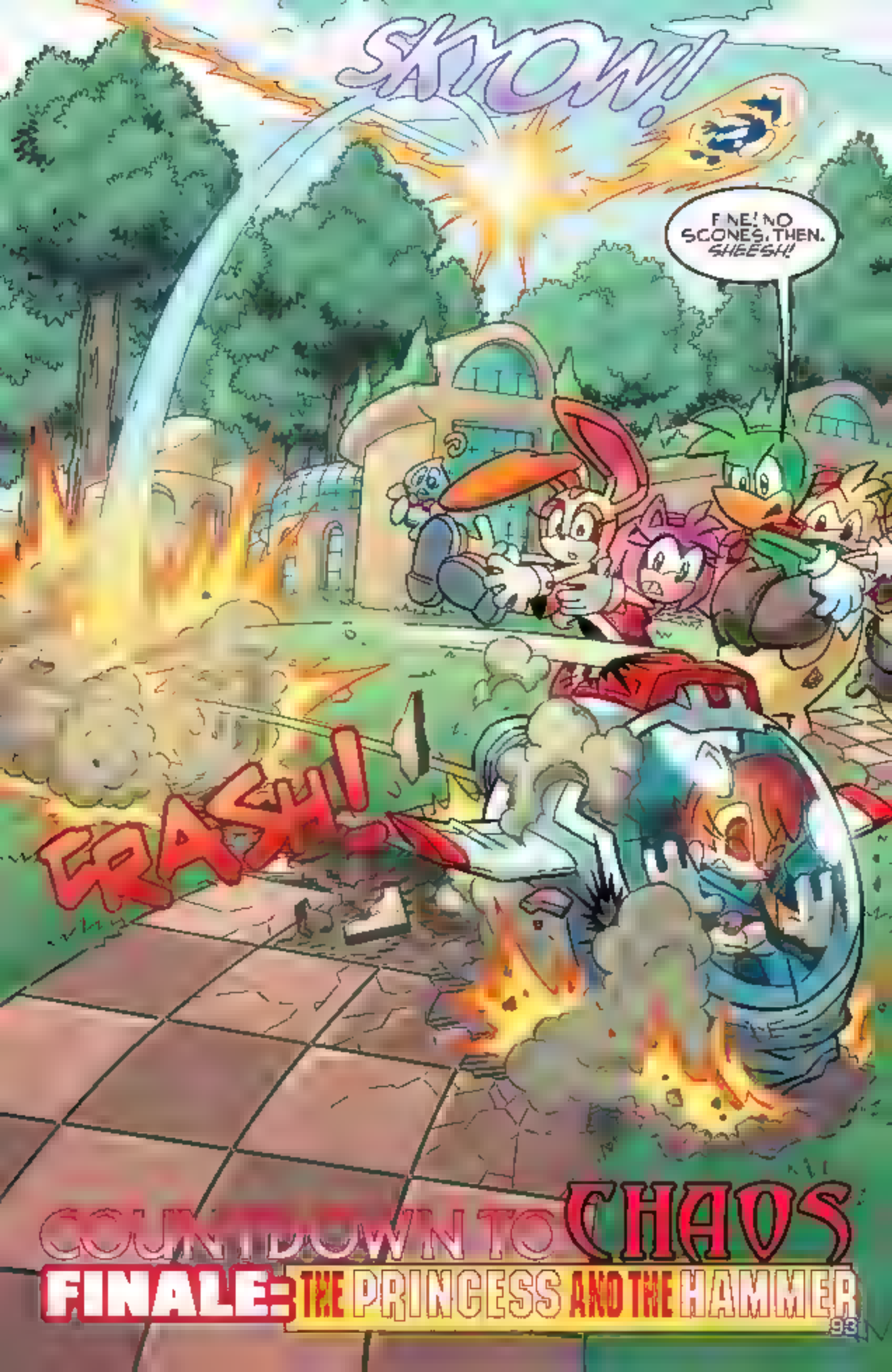

?!

TRACK THAT POD. SEND METAL SONIC.
SONIC DOESN'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN —ALIVE.

CHAPTER 5

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 256
COVER BY BEN BATES

MOBOTROPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND...
MISS BLAZE DID IT! WE'RE HOME!*
WE SURE ARE! I BET SONIC MISSED ME. .
CREAM THE RABBIT YOUNG FLYER
AMY ROSE THE HAMMER
CHEESE DEVOTED CHAO CHAMPION
FWA-WHOOSH!
HE BETTER HAVE MISSED ME...
BEAN THE DUCK DYNAMITE MERCENARY
BARK THE POLAR BEAR SILENT PARTNER
* SONIC UNIVERSE #55-58, "PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC!" AVAILABLE NOW ON THE SONIC COMICS APP!
OH, GOODNESS! I BET MOTHER IS WORRIED SICK!
DON'T WORRY, CREAM. WE'RE BACK, WE'RE SAFE, AND WE'LL TELL HER ALL ABOUT OUR ADVENTURES OVER TEA LIKE ALWAYS.
OOH!
WILL THERE BE CRUMPETS? TEA BISCUITS?
SCONES?!



COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS

FINALE: THE PRINCESS AND THE HAMMER

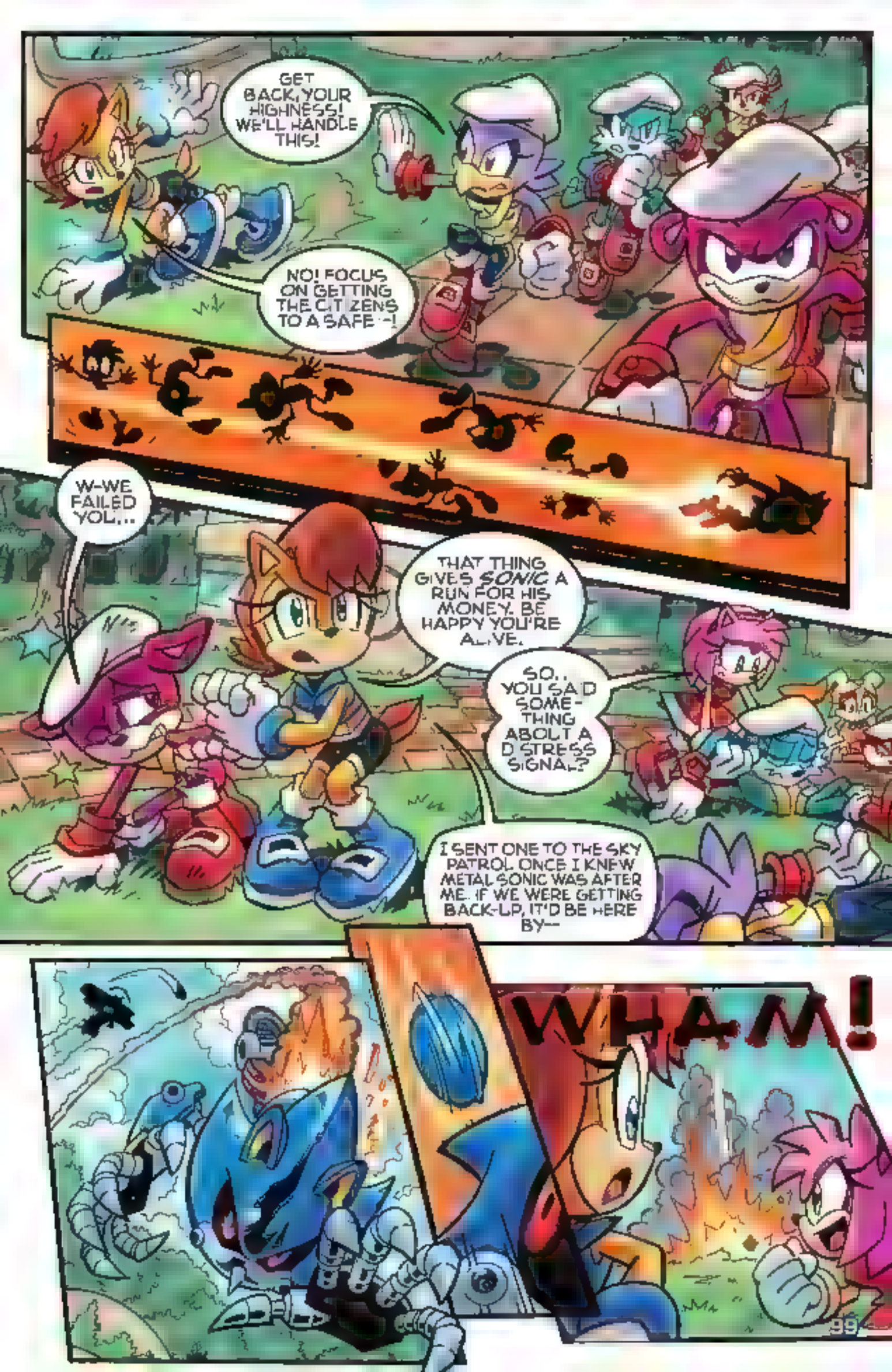
C'MON... C'MON...
CLANG!
SALLY?!
SALLY ACORN THE PRINCESS
AMY! OH, THANK GOODNESS! I DIDN'T THINK MY DISTRESS SIGNAL GOT OUT! METAL SONIC'S RIGHT ON MY--
--TAIL!
METAL SONIC KILLER ROBOT

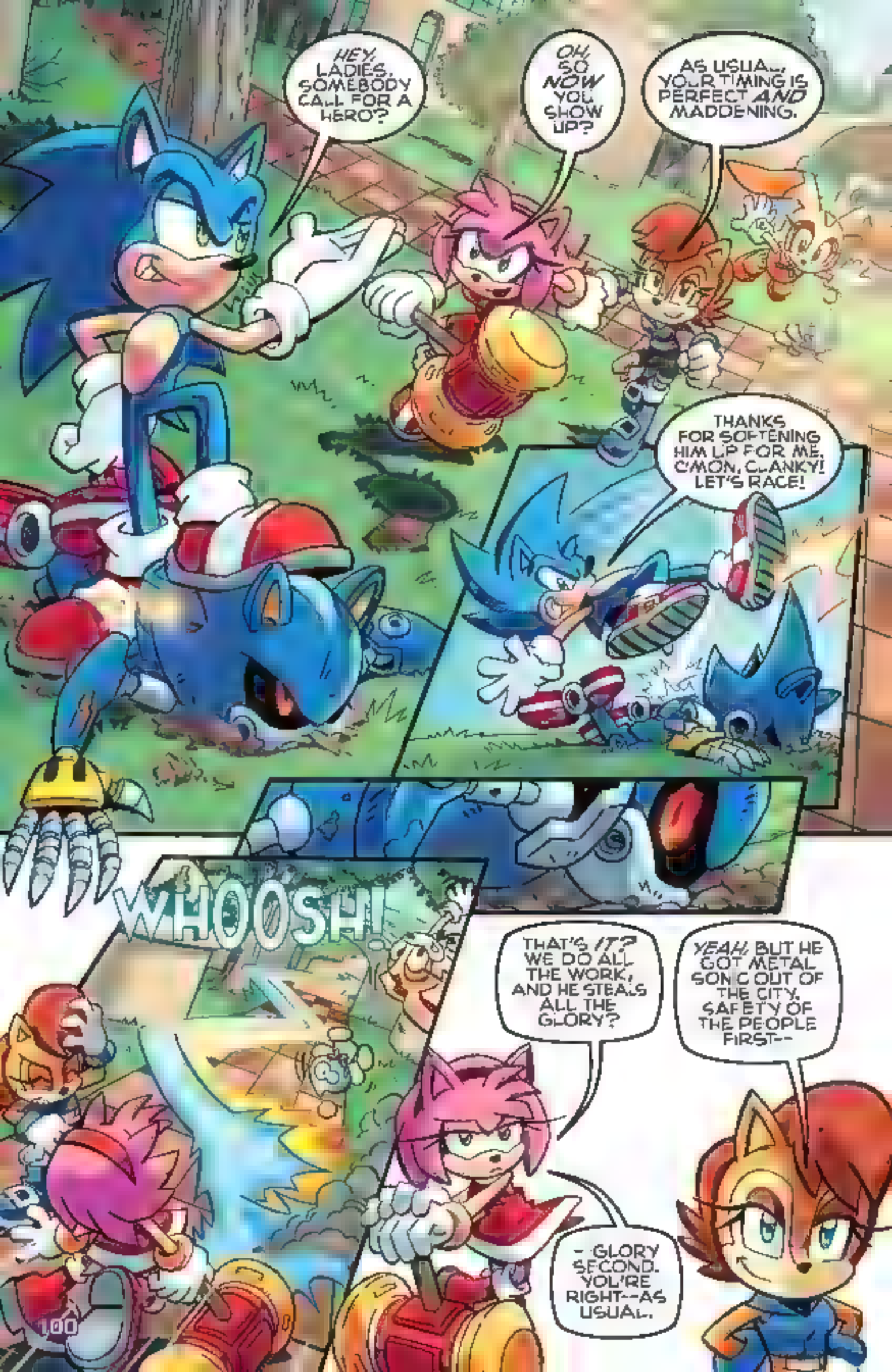
ALTHOUGH--NO OFFENSE--I WISH YOU'D BROUGHT MORE BACK-UP, CONSIDERING...
ROBOT OR HEDGEHOG, I CAN HANDLE ANY SONIC!
SHING!
PIKO!
MISTER BEAN! MISTER BARK! WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW!
YOU SURE COULD! HOW MUCH MONEY YOU GOT ON YA?
N-NONE, B-BUT...
SORRY, KIDDO! ONLY ONE PRO BONO ADVENTURE PER VISIT! (AND I THINK WE'RE WANTED CRIMINALS HERE.) TOODLES!
BUT ...BUT YOU'RE SO MEAN!
EEEK!
YHRIP!

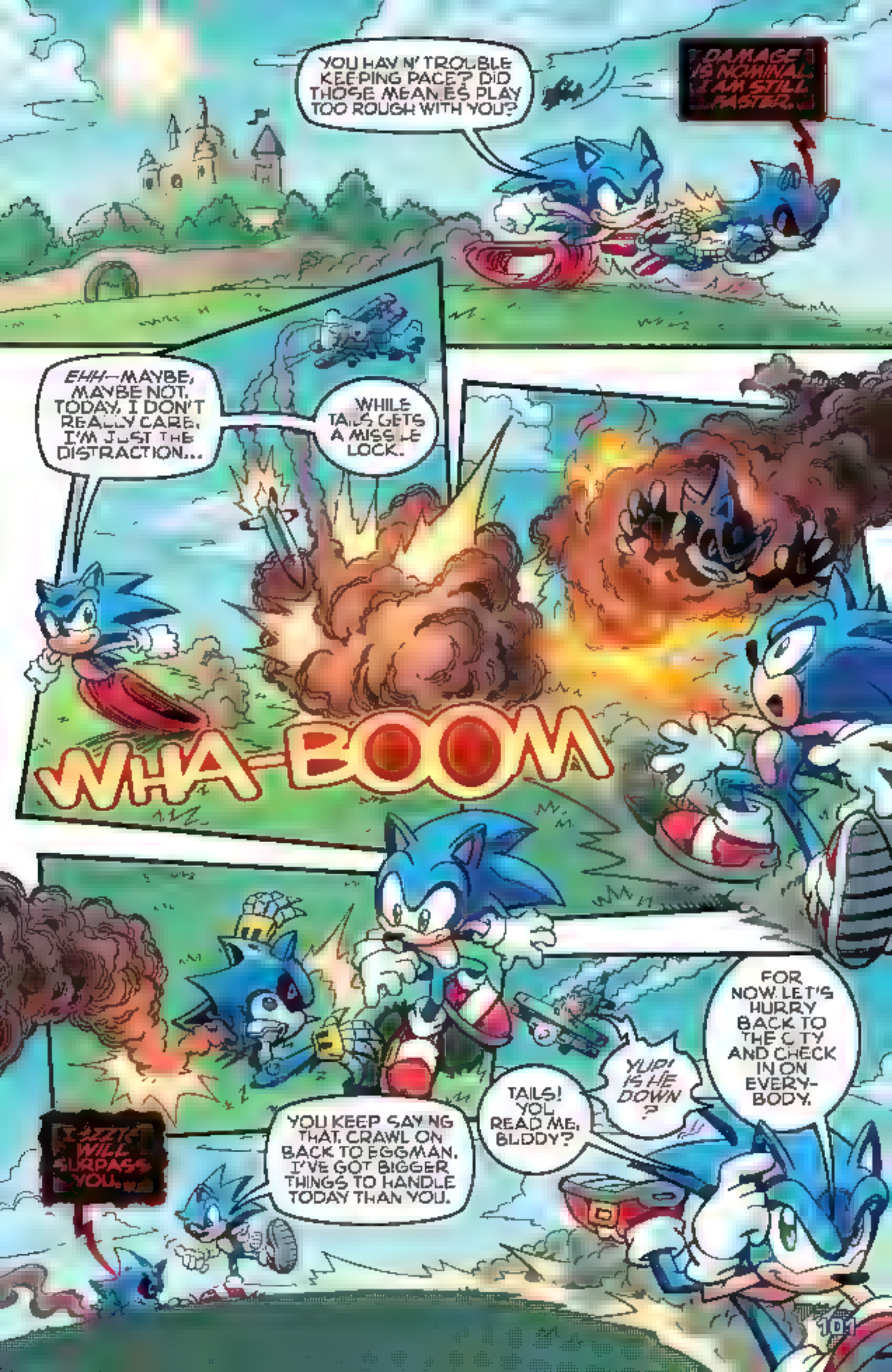
CHAO CHAO!
CHEESE! NO!
bonk!
SWAT!
PIKO!
VRM
VRM
BLACK SHIELD-- DEFENSIVE MATRIX
PYOW!

AMY?! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?! WEREN'T YOU GUARDING THE SKY PATROL WHEN YOU GOT MY MESSAGE?
I WAS GUARDING IT BUT THEN CREAM AND I WERE SUMMONED TO BLAZE'S WORLD. WE JUST GOT BACK. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MESSAGE.
THEN ...IT'S JUST US?
YEAH, BUT WE'VE HANDLED SOME TOUGH BADNIKS IN OUR TIME!
I THINK THIS ONE IS WHEWE WORSE THAN "TOUGH."
YEAH... BUT... I ALREADY GLOATED ABOUT HANDLING HIM. I'VE GOT TO BACK IT UP NOW.
WE CAN'T LET HIM CONTROL THE FIGHT. PUSH THE OFFENSIVE!

CHEESE -NOW!
bonk!
PIKO!
BURST SHIELD-JOINT MATRIX


GET BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
NO! FOCUS ON GETTING THE CITIZENS TO A SAFE--!
W-WE FAILED YOU...
THAT THING GIVES *SONIC* A RUN FOR HIS MONEY. BE HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE.
SO... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL?
I SENT ONE TO THE SKY PATROL ONCE I KNEW METAL SONIC WAS AFTER ME. IF WE WERE GETTING BACK-UP, IT'D BE HERE BY--
WHAM!


HEY, LADIES, SOMEBODY CALL FOR A HERO?
OH, SO NOW YOU SHOW UP?
AS USUAL, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT AND MADDENING.
THANKS FOR SOFTENING HIM UP FOR ME. C'MON, CLANKY! LET'S RACE!
WHOOSH!
THAT'S IT? WE DO ALL THE WORK, AND HE STEALS ALL THE GLORY?
YEAH, BUT HE GOT METAL SONIC OUT OF THE CITY. SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE FIRST--
- GLORY SECOND. YOU'RE RIGHT--AS USUAL.


YOU HAV N' TROUBLE KEEPING PACE? DID THOSE MEANIES PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH YOU?
DAMAGE IS NOMINAL. I AM STILL FASTER...
EHH—MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. TODAY, I DON'T REALLY CARE. I'M JUST THE DISTRACTION...
WHILE TAILS GETS A MISSILE LOCK.
WHA-BOOM
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT. CRAWL ON BACK TO EGGMAN. I'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS TO HANDLE TODAY THAN YOU.
TAILS! YOU READ ME, BUDDY?
YUP! IS HE DOWN?
FOR NOW. LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE CITY AND CHECK IN ON EVERYBODY.
SAZZY WILL SURPASS YOU...

... AND GET THEM TO THE HOSPIT-- AHH!
WHOA! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ?
I JUST YOU LOOK GOOD, SAL. I MISSED YOU.
AHEM
AND I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. WHERE DID YOU DIS-APPEAR TO?
OH! I... WELL...WE WERE BLAZE SAYS HI!
BLAZE? OH, I GET IT! WHEN THE GENESIS WAVE TH NGIE SCREWED UP,* IT SENT YOU TO BLAZE'S WORLD. THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
YEAH, WE - GENESIS- WHAT?
*WORLDS COLLIDE VOL. 3 GRAPHIC NOVEL!
SONIC...YOU'RE MAKING LESS SENSE THAN JSLAL.
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH. I'M GOING TOO FAST IT'S MY THING. MY POINT S-- AMY'S HOME SAFE, YOU'RE NOT A ROBOT, AND WE'VE GOT IMPORTANT STUFF TO HANDLE AT THE SKY PATROL.
"NOT A ROBOT"?!
BUT OUR FIRST STOP...
"...IS TO CHECK IN WITH THE KING."

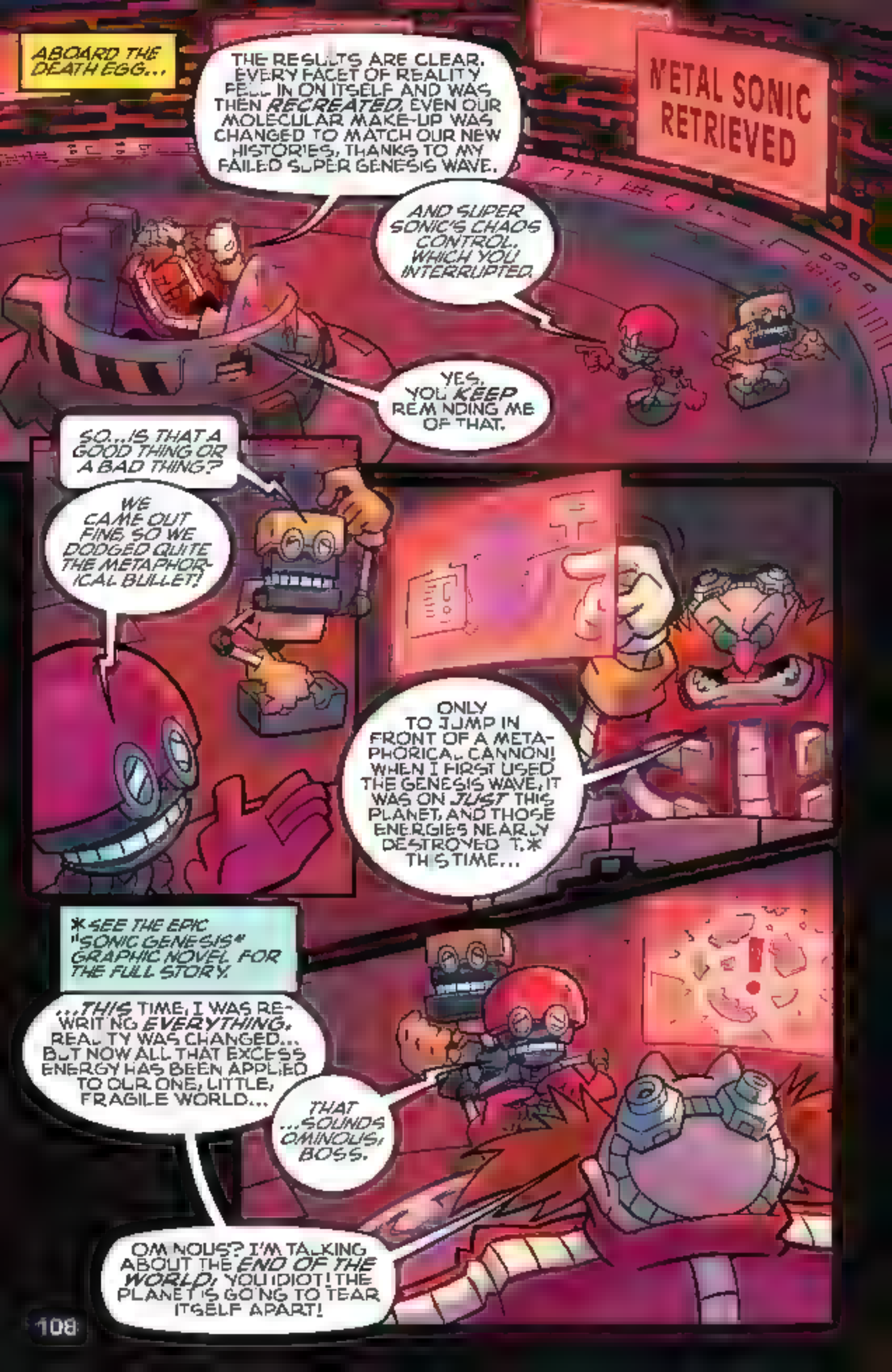
AND SO...
MYSTIC RUINS, SOLIMERCA...
WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME, PRESENTING--THE SKY PATROL!
VERY IMPRESSIVE! NICE WORK, ROTOR.
IT WAS A LABOR OF LOVE, BUT TAILS AND I PULLED IT TOGETHER. SHE'S READY FOR LAUNCH!
FIRST, THOUGH, SPEAKING OF PULLING THINGS TOGETHER...
RIGHT.
NICOLE? IS SOMETHING WRONG...?
LONG STORY, SAL. YOU'LL GET UP TO DATE...PRETTY QUICK. NICOLE--DO YOU THINK YOU CAN RESTORE THEM BOTH?
MAYBE. I'LL HAVE TO SHARE THE CIRCUIT WITH BOTH OF THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY. AFTER THAT, THE GENESIS WAVE ENERGY WILL BE SPENT.
OKAY, AMY! SAL! QUICK STORY TIME BEFORE WE TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD.
SAVE THE WORLD? WHAT'S GONE WRONG NOW?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA REMEMBER THIS, BUT...TO PUT IT *REALLY* SIMPLY, EGGMAN TRIED REWRITING REALITY WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE *GENESIS WAVE*. I TRIED TO FIX THINGS, HE GOT IN MY WAY, AND OUR WORLD WAS...CHANGED.*
*WORLDS COLLIDE VOL. 3 GRAPHIC NOVEL/
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE ONE SIDE EFFECT WAS THAT SOME OF THE LEFTOVER ENERGY FROM THE WAVE GOT TRANSFERRED TO NICOLE, WHICH THREW HER SYSTEMS OUT OF WHACK. BUT WHEN SHE TRANSFERS THAT ENERGY TO US, IT FIXES HER A BIT, AND WE ...WELL, WE REMEMBER, HOW THE WORLD USED TO BE.
WHOA... A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIFE?
BETWEEN THE SPECIAL ZONE AND OUR INTERACTIONS WITH BLAZE AND SILVER, ALTERNATE TIMELINES SEEM LOGICAL ENOUGH. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE RESTORE YOUR DATABASE?
I'M HOPING I'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE EVERYTHING AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD.

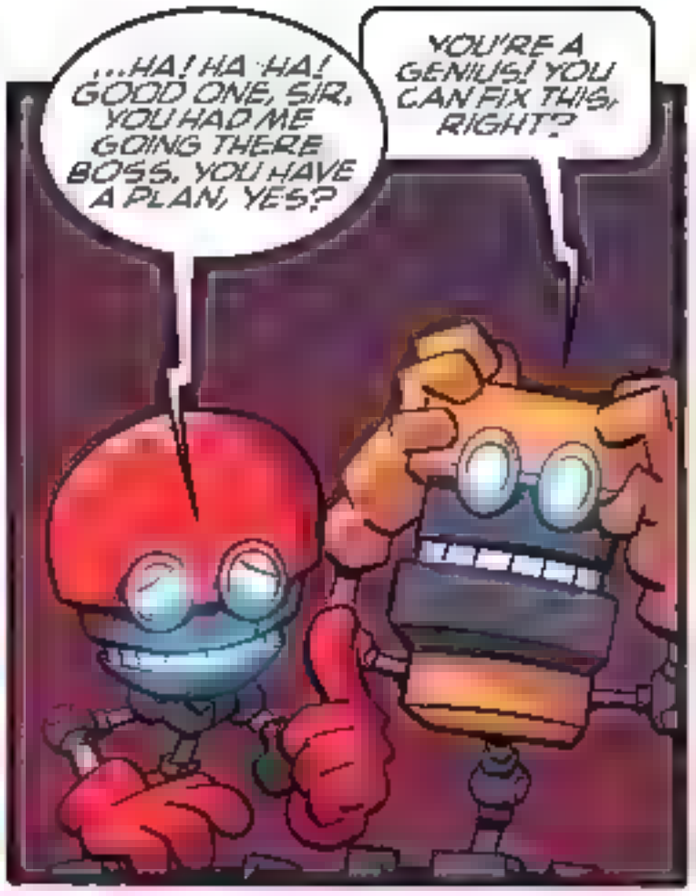
Y'ALL NEED TO BRACE YOURSELVES, THO'. IT'S A JARRIN' EXPERIENCE BY ITSELF, BUT THIS OTHER LIFE...THINGS WERE SO *DIFFERENT*, SALLY-GIRL. AND *YOU*...
NOW, HOLD ON. IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TALK US OUT OF THIS. IF THIS RESTORES NICOLE, THEN THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT GOING FORWARD. IF THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS INVOLVED, THAT'S DOUBLY TRUE.
GIVEN EVERYTHING SONIC'S SAID, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE TO SAVE EVERYONE. BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.
LIKE YOU'VE GOTTA ASK! WE'RE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, WE CAN HANDLE *ANY* CRISIS.
OKAY, DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.
READY FOR THIS?
WHO KNOWS? LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
ALL RIGHT. FOR NICOLE, AND FOR THE WORLD.

...TRIED TO START A WAR... THINGS I SAID... THINGS I DID ...ALMOST MURDERED...
...BUT YOU STOPPED ME... THANK YOU... I'M SO SORRY...
...SO, SO SORRY...
SHH... THAT WASN'T YOU. YOU'RE SAFE NOW. IT'S OVER.
...SONIC.
YEAH? YOU DOIN' OKAY NOW THAT--
LAUNCH THE SKY PATROL! NOW! THE WORLD DIDN'T JUST GET RE-WRITTEN!

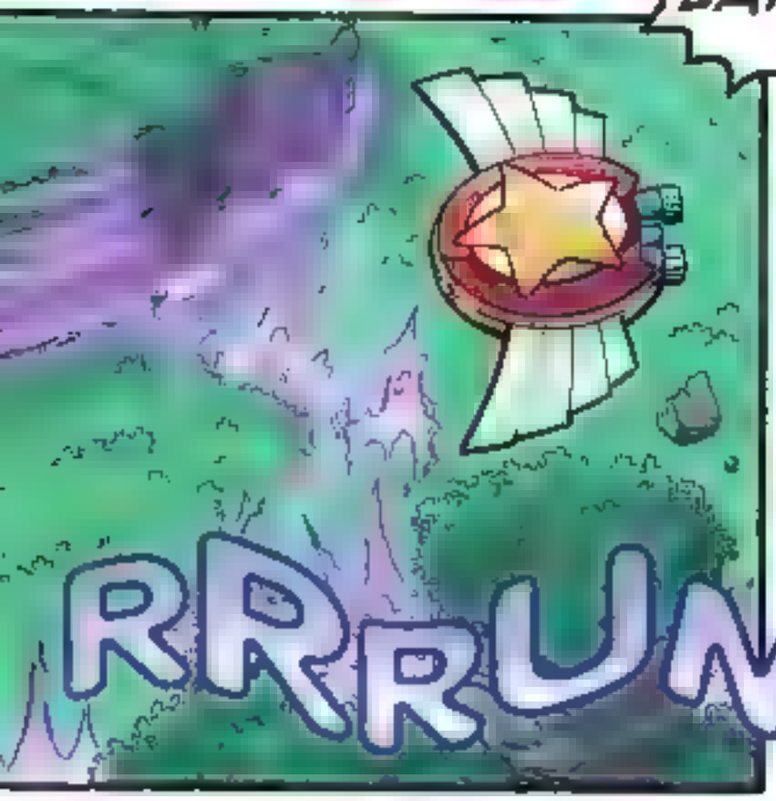
VREEEEE!
TAKE IT EASY, NICOLE. WHAT'S THE RUSH?
THIS IS...FAR WORSE THAN I ANTICIPATED. ANALYZING WHAT I NOW KNOW ABOUT THE DUAL REALITIES, I'VE FOUND IT WASN'T JUST THE PLANET THAT WAS AFFECTED ...NOT JUST OUR REALITY.
THE ENTIRE MULTI-VERSE COLLAPSED IN UPON ITSELF.

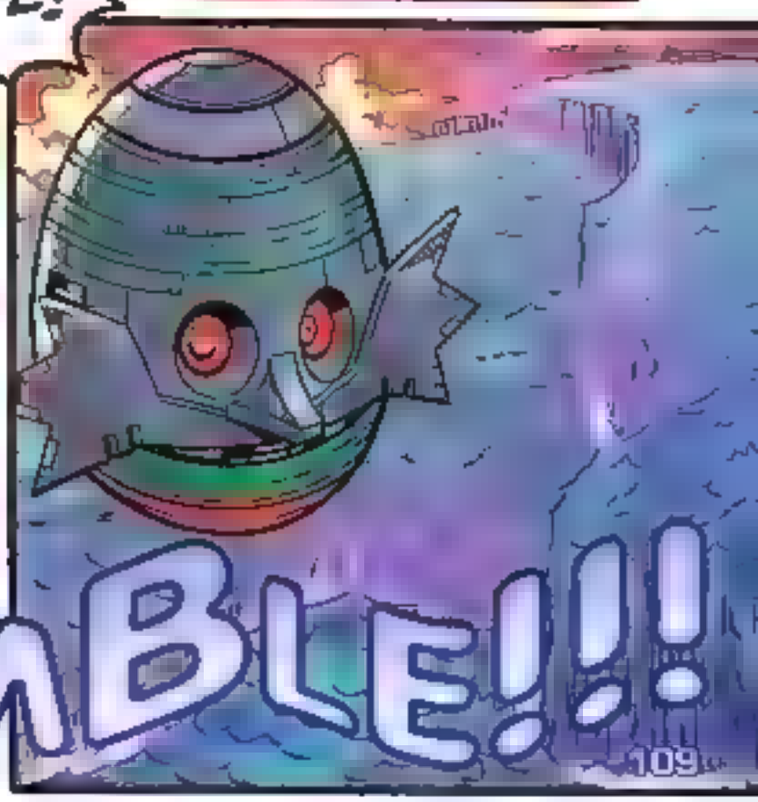

ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...
METAL SONIC RETRIEVED
THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR. EVERY FACET OF REALITY FELL IN ON ITSELF AND WAS THEN RECREATED. EVEN OUR MOLECULAR MAKE-UP WAS CHANGED TO MATCH OUR NEW HISTORIES, THANKS TO MY FAILED SUPER GENESIS WAVE.
AND SUPER SONIC'S CHAOS CONTROL, WHICH YOU INTERRUPTED.
YES, YOU KEEP REMINDING ME OF THAT.
SO...IS THAT A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?
WE CAME OUT FINE, SO WE DODGED QUITE THE METAPHORICAL BULLET!
ONLY TO JUMP IN FRONT OF A METAPHORICAL CANNON! WHEN I FIRST USED THE GENESIS WAVE, IT WAS ON JUST THIS PLANET, AND THOSE ENERGIES NEARLY DESTROYED IT.* THIS TIME...
*SEE THE EPIC "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR THE FULL STORY.
...THIS TIME, I WAS REWRITING EVERYTHING. REALITY WAS CHANGED... BUT NOW ALL THAT EXCESS ENERGY HAS BEEN APPLIED TO OUR ONE, LITTLE, FRAGILE WORLD...
THAT ...SOUNDS OMINOUS, BOSS.
OMINOUS? I'M TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD, YOU IDIOT! THE PLANET IS GOING TO TEAR ITSELF APART!

WHOA--HOLD ON, NICOLE. WE SAVE THE WORLD ALL THE TIME!
RIGHT! WHAT DO WE DO TO STOP IT?

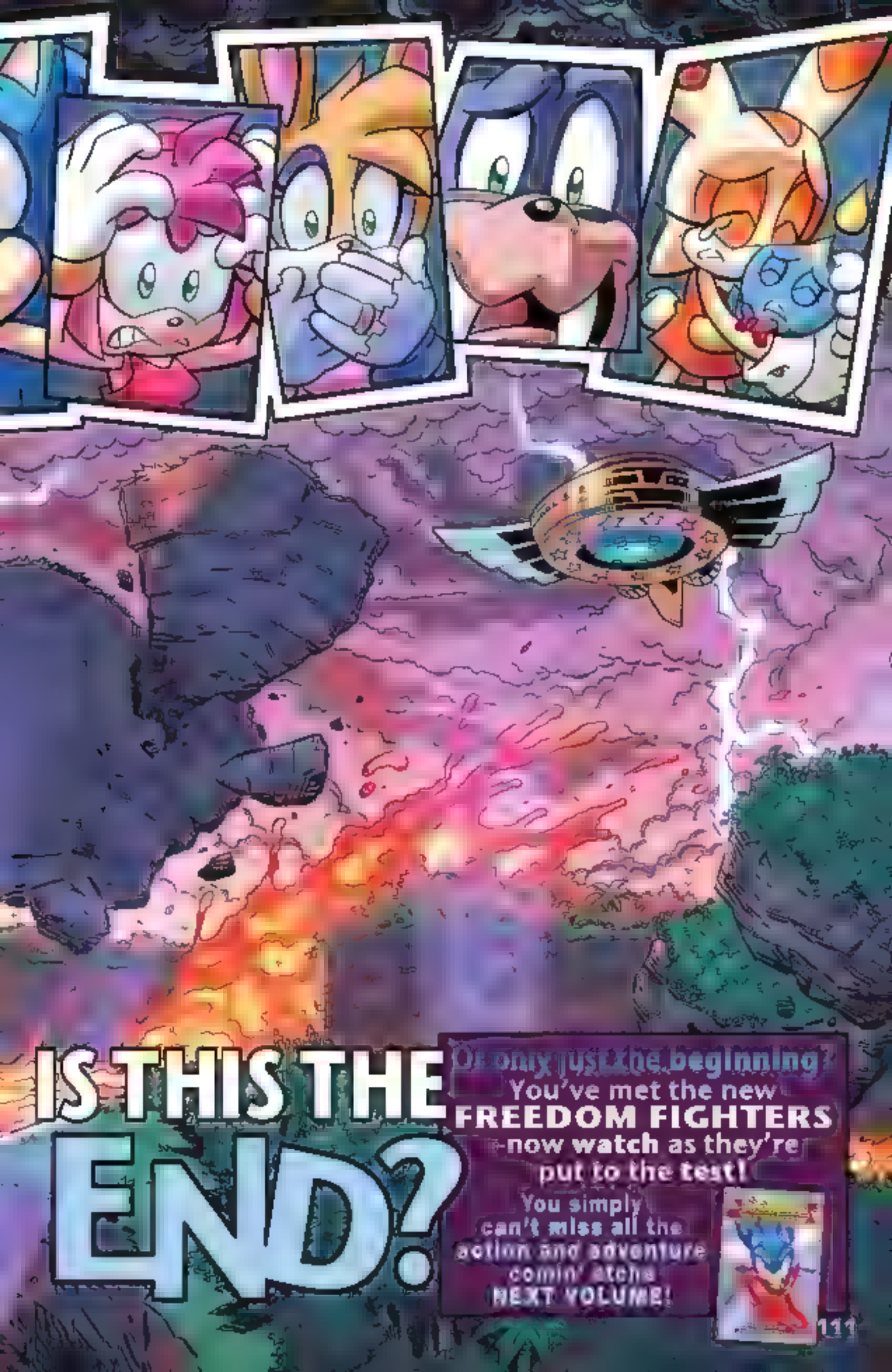

...HA! HA HA! GOOD ONE, SIR. YOU HAD ME GOING THERE BOSS. YOU HAVE A PLAN, YES?
YOU'RE A GENIUS! YOU CAN FIX THIS, RIGHT?

STOP IT?
FIX IT?
IT'S TOO LATE!





RRRUMBLE!!!


IS THIS THE END?
Or only just the beginning?
You've met the new FREEDOM FIGHTERS
-now watch as they're put to the test!
You simply can't miss all the action and adventure comin' atcha NEXT VOLUME!

GOTTA GO BACK!

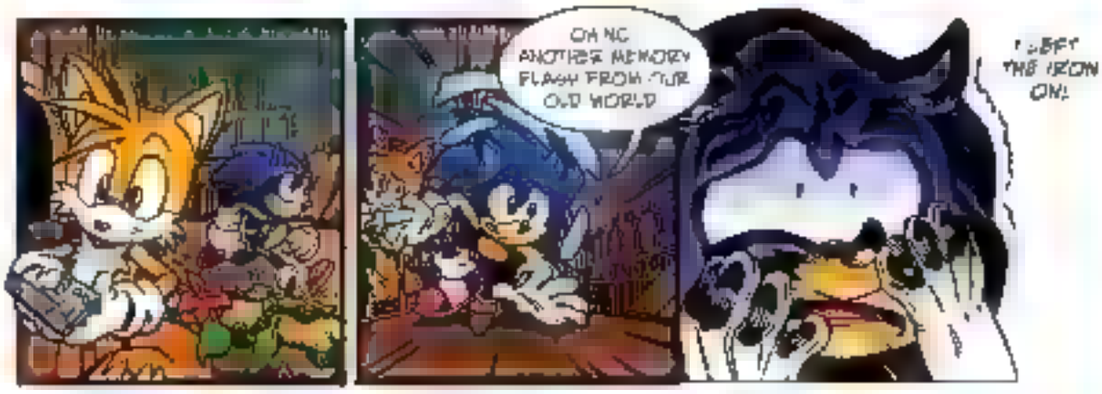
SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: VINCENT LOVALLO
INKS: KENT ARCHER
COLORS: JAMES KAMINSKI

REAL SMOOTH, SONIC...

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: ALEAH BAKER

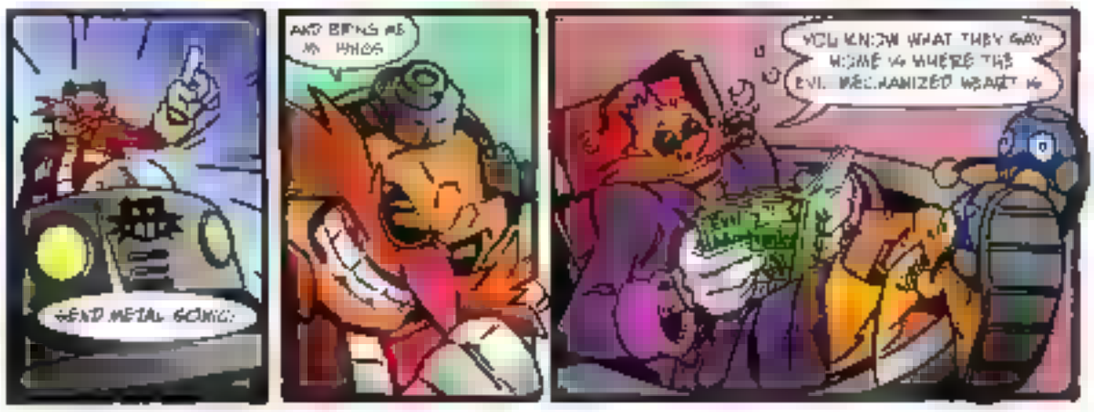
IT'S ALL IN THE PAST!

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



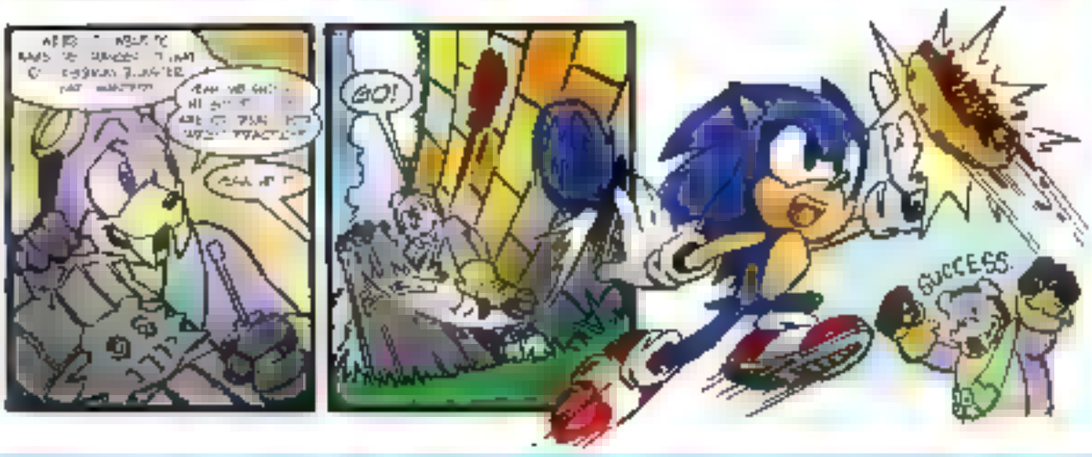
FEELING RIGHT AT HOME!

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



READY FOR LAUNCH!

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 252
VARIANT COVER

CHARACTER ART PROVIDED BY SEGA
BACKGROUND ART BY PATRICK SPAZIANTE

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 253
VARIANT COVER

COVER ART BY
T. REX

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 254
VARIANT COVER

CHARACTER ART PROVIDED BY SEGA
BACKGROUND ART BY VINCENT LOVALLO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 255 VARIANT COVER

COVER ART BY TYLER CARRS
WITH MATT HERMS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 256 VARIANT COVER

COVER ART BY TRACY YARDLEY, PHYLLIS NOVIN & DUSTIN EVANS

COVER PROCESS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 253-256

FIRST DRAFT CONCEPT THUMBNAIL

The idea of four adjoining covers is a real challenge! Artist Ben Bates loosely sketches his concept in a very simple way, giving just enough information to get the main point across!

FINAL DRAFT PENCIL THUMBNAIL

Using the digital sketch as a guide, Ben lays down a clearer, more finalized draft in pencil line and submits it to the editor for the review process!

FINAL PENCILS

The super detailed pencil work brings clarity to the final image and is ready for ink and color! Note how the Sonic poses changed during the review process of the first two steps!

FINAL COVER ART

Everything comes together in this four-cover, colored masterpiece! Ben didn't actually paint this image all in one go, he chisled away at it bit by bit. The end result is amazing!

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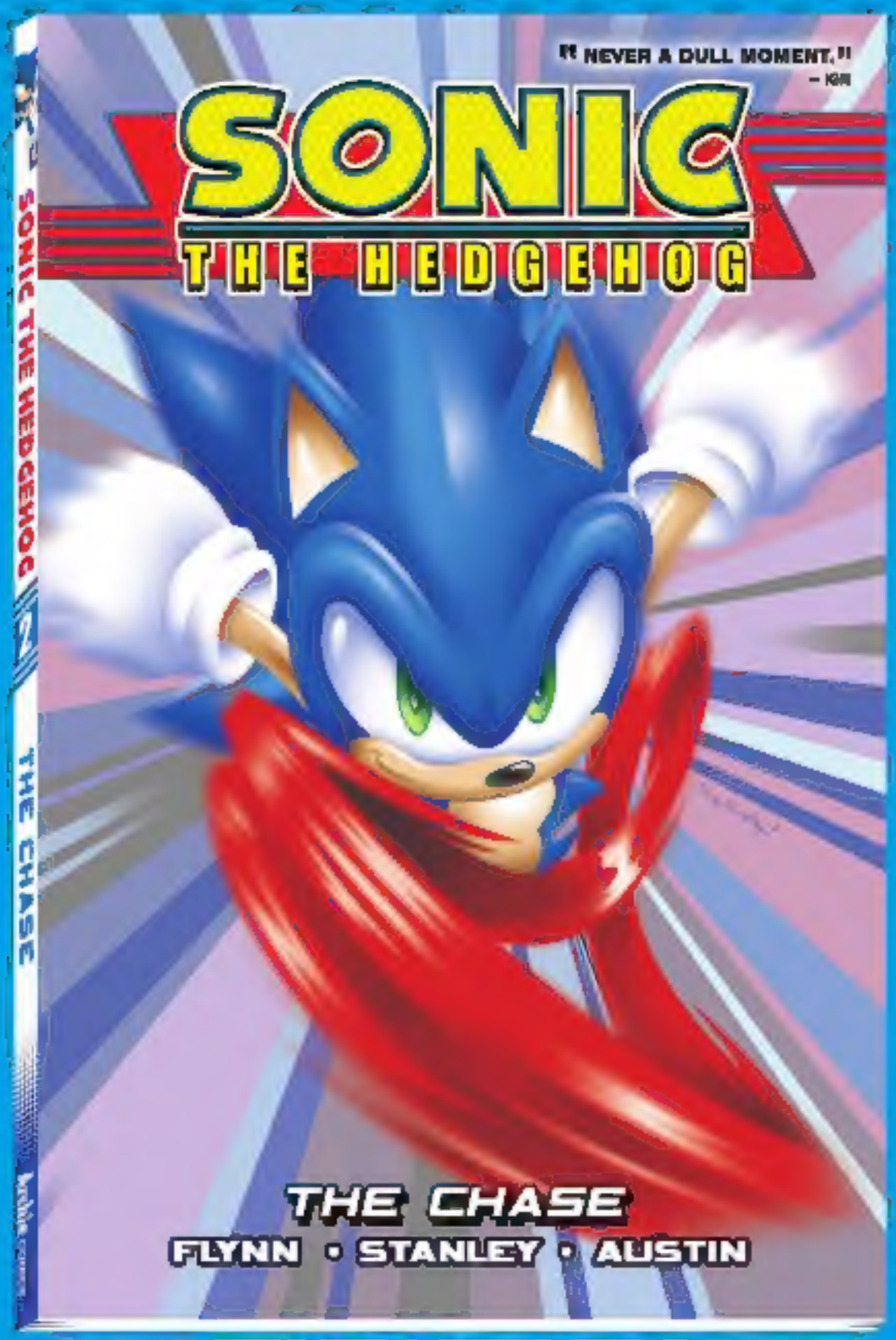
NEXT TIME: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 2

THE CHASE



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